

May, 1992

Electronic Democracy -  
Perot for President BBS

# BOARDWATCH

## MAGAZINE

GUIDE TO ELECTRONIC BBS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES

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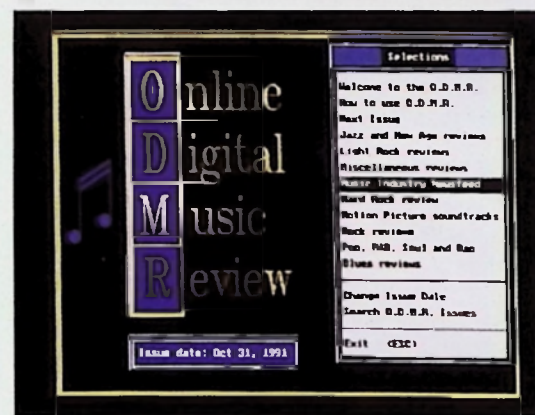
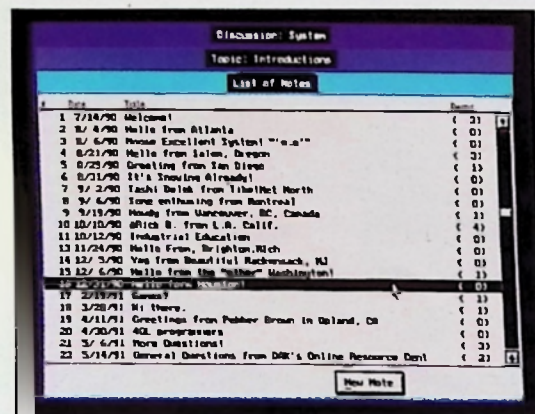
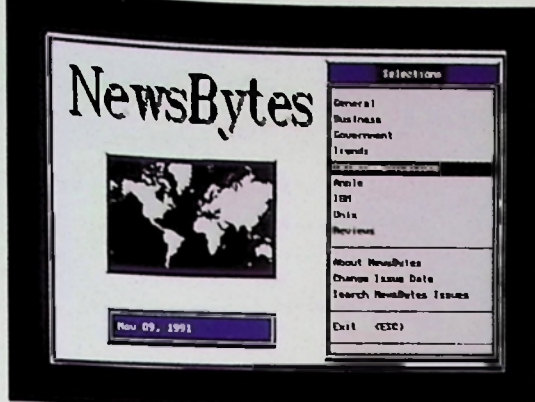
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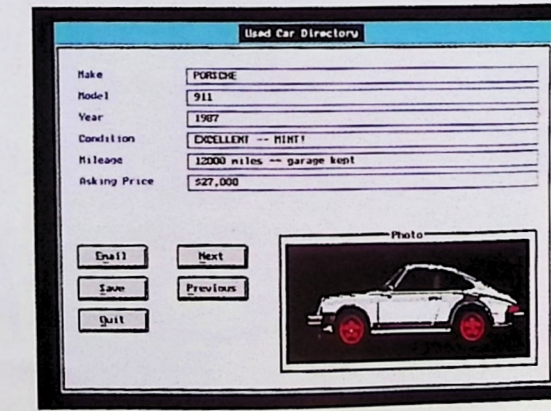
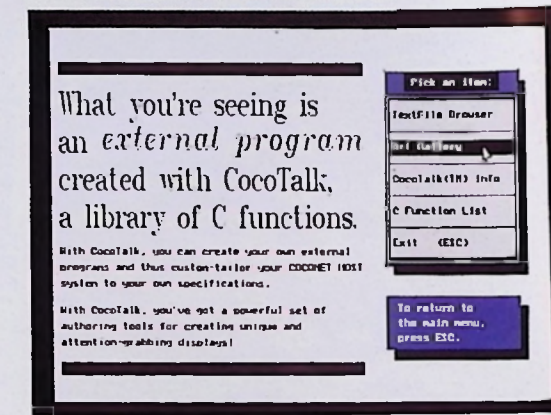
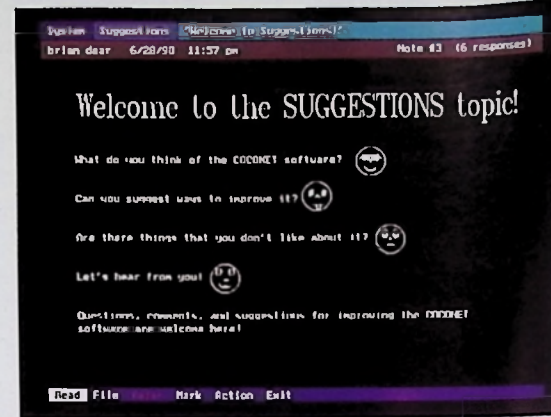
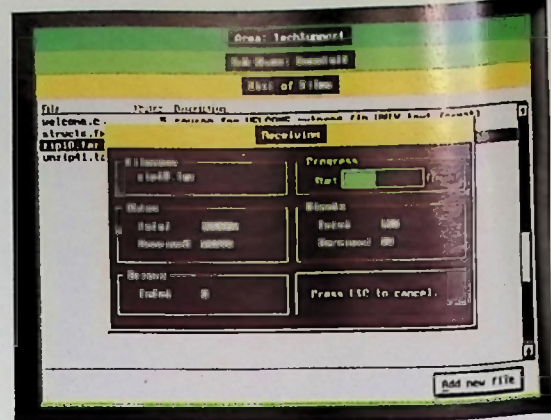
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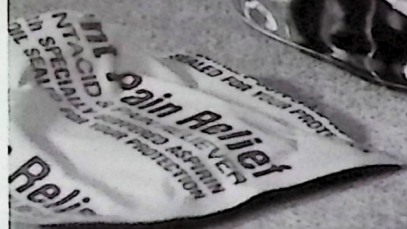


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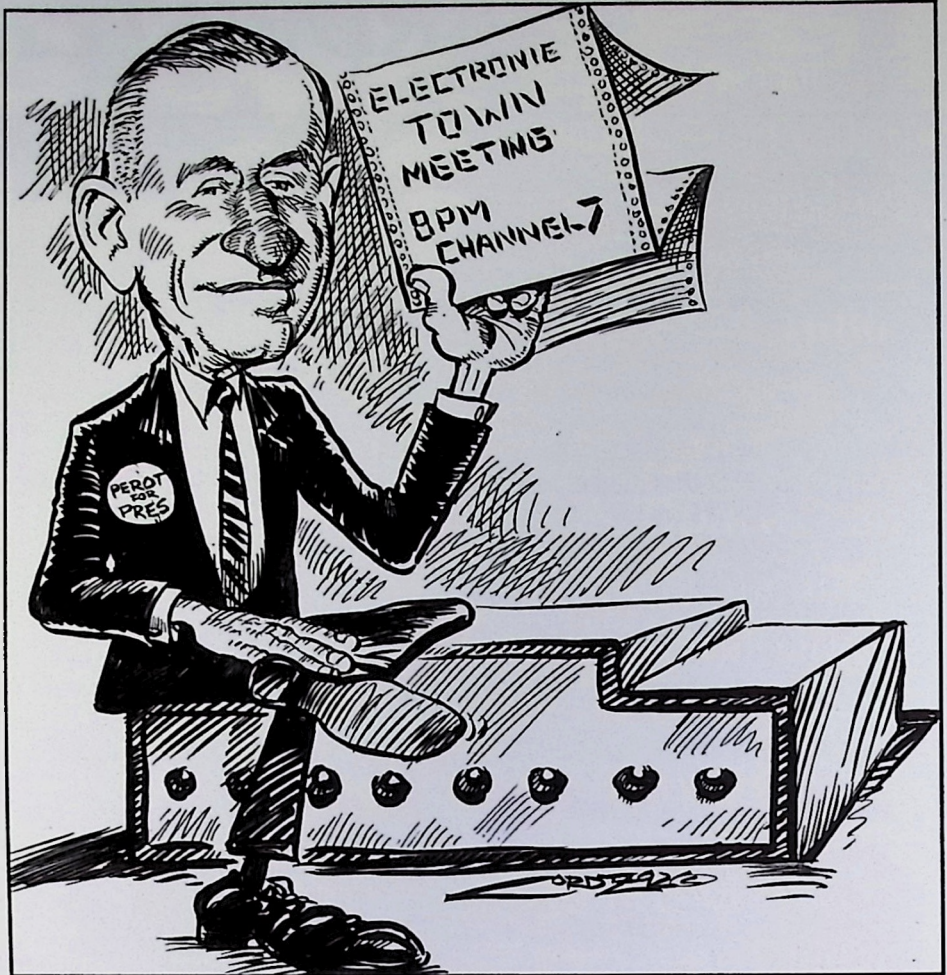


## EDITORS NOTES

### ONLINE DEMOCRACY - NOW?

There has been an undercurrent of discussion online for a number of years of some form of "electronic democracy" where citizens could voice their opinion or cast their vote from the couch potato position by modem, some form of TV reactive device, or by telephone. Everyone online rather likes the idea, it's just that with such a small fraction of the population online in any meaningful way, implementation just never made much sense. And in a nation where the process to get a small thing done in a long time required so much political effort, it seemed a bit whimsical to contemplate such a thing actually happening. It would appear in this, our season of political discontent, while we may not be heading for an electronic democracy, our democracy is certainly becoming more electronic.

In this issue, like so many, a lot of little things came together to form the monthly "well looky there" response. I would love to run a publication where we plan stories months in advance, carefully plot and craft them, and bring them together in one glorious burst of color and well planned pages. Well, it's not likely. I go through a two and a half foot desk pile of little yellow stickies, notes on Kentucky Fried Chicken bags, and check all my shirt sleeves, and somehow out pops a *Boardwatch*. Surprises me as much as anyone what shows up in it. In this issue, we have a brief spot about Congressman Bob Wise's Whistleblower BBS. We found that transcripts of a Congressional Hearing on the NREN are available for download online. Then we learned Gene Tenney of San Mateo California was running for Congress "electronically". Jerry Brown, presidential candidate held a town meeting on GENie one Sunday night in April where 200 or so GENie callers happened to stop in to grill him a little bit on his role as Governor Moonbeam and Presidential contender. Brown is also rumored to be looking at enlisting the BBS community for fund raising and campaigning. And Prodigy



has an entire section with very detailed information on candidates, PACs, and more.

And then there is the fascinating case of H. Ross Perot. I'll confess the man is something of a personal hero. I don't really agree with everything he says, but I "likes the way he says it." While Carter fretted away in the White House over dozens of U.S. hostages in Iran, Perot likewise faced a similar situation. A couple of EDS employees were held hostage in Teheran. I'm trying to picture what the head of a corporation (oh, say the head of US West, General Motors, or AT&T) might do if a couple of their employees were held overseas. I would wager they would immediately call the State Department and demand that "something be done", issue a press release containing an "expression of concern" and probably circulate a similar "concern" memorandum throughout their corporate empires extending sympathies to the desperate

families. But historically, such matters would be considered "out of their hands."

Perot hired a mean, nasty, but competent son of a bitch, bought him a helicopter and anything else he needed, and told him to go get them - at whatever cost and by whatever means. Which by the way, he did. I'm sure all the appropriate memorandums were generated post facto to the degree necessary to mollify whomever needed mollification. He didn't check with his lawyers. He took an unusual personal responsibility for the fate of those who as employees followed him, and at no small expense and even legal risk, did the best he could to make it happen. This isn't management. It's leadership. There is a difference.

Perot borrowed a \$1000 in the 60s (actually more money than it sounds now) and over the course of a couple of decades of hard and smart work, built it into a multi billion dollar empire. Such rags to riches success is pooh-poohed by



a good deal of our political culture. It's actually still hard to do, requires personal vigor and the ability to inspire loyalty in people through personal leadership. Most of the people we have elected to represent us in Washington DC today think that wealth is created when mummy and daddy die and they'll just have to make do with what they can wheedle out of corporate patrons in return for political favors until then. If all else fails, just write a check and let the House Bank cover it. Perot could undoubtedly buy out all 435 representatives and hundred senators, Kennedy's and all, by himself. And if he couldn't, he could certainly raise the financing for it. And while the CongressGeeks tool around in chauffeur driven limousines, Perot drives an 84 Oldsmobile - and one carefully cared for at that I would wager.

Perot can't quite understand why a CEO could make \$30 million a year while losing his market and finds the disparity between executive pay and worker pay beyond appropriate incentive. He went to war with the CEO and board of General Motors. Somebody needed to. But the news was, Perot walked away the winner after failing to convince GM that they ought to try to make one automobile in a row that was the best at something somehow. They thought he was a crazy man. Today Perot is head of Perot Data Systems, a part owner of NeXT computers, and doing rather nicely thank you. GM is laying off 74,000 employees this year.

Perot is a man grounded in old fashioned conservative principles, but let us not forget that he did build EDS, a high tech computer company by anyone's measure. He's intimately familiar with technology and probably has as visceral a grasp of its future as anyone walking around. I've written in the past of the fairly enormous and wrenching transition we face as a society in moving from an industrial commodity economy to a higher margin value-added information and technology based economy. A big portion of our work force will be forced to quit stamping out automobile brake pads and start working on the exportable technology and software to enable someone in Brazil to do it. It would be real reassuring to have someone leading the buffalo hunt that had some grasp of what that meant and how to perhaps ease

some of the "wrenching" part for those who still have to pay the light bill while "transitioning."

One of the themes Perot has sounded is that of a more participative democracy through communications. He describes the current "mass media" as a one-way tool of propaganda that would thrill Adolph Hitler and paints a vision of a national town hall meeting using television systems allowing a response channel. Everyone I've spoken with pooh-poohs this idea as unworkable with 200 million people and in the same breath expresses "concern" over the disenfranchised who can't afford both a television and a telephone.

Never mind the mutually exclusive nature of those two arguments. As to the first, most of what we're doing online today is unworkable, or it was a couple of years ago. And most of it has been driven by a handful of clowns in their basements experimenting out of their rent money. There has been NO significant national effort at any type of two-way communications in the last 50 years - unless you want to count touch-tone dialing as the great advance of the later half of this century. And under the current structure, it doesn't appear there WILL be any advances until we bow to the demands of the local telephone companies that we pay them \$200 per month for telephone service.

Secondly, there are a lot of us out here now with several telephones and several television sets feeling pretty damn "disenfranchised" right about now. I'm not too concerned about the tiny handful that can't dial a telephone, I'm noting the majority of voting age adults that haven't gone to the polls in about a decade - thoroughly disillusioned with the pathetic choices our two-party system seems to breed. The current system of hoops regarding registration, residency, and finding where the local polling place is THIS election seems intentionally designed to exclude, NOT to include.

And this year shapes up to be one of the worst. George Bush has brought the concepts of charisma and leadership to a dizzying new and disappointing low. The Federal bureaucracy has exploded during his tenure. Four more years of that and we'll have to open the



floodgates of immigration just to have enough citizens on hand to add to the federal payroll to keep up the pace. Meanwhile, Environmental Protection Agency Agents are actually, (I'm not making this up), strapping on firearms for the final assault on west Texas, effectively ending the oil industry that's kept us putt-putting along the nation's highways for so long. I didn't say change it. It will be GONE. Our banking system was quietly nationalized last year and nobody has quite had the guts to make the announcement. They're hoping we don't notice. And George Bush still struggles with "the vision thing." He's a lame duck president before the convention nominating him for his candidacy in the second term. His election would mark the beginning of a four-year downward spiral of political irrelevance and neglect.

And the Democratic Party. They don't know whether to search for a candidate or an issue. They haven't a clue. Nor a chance at the Presidency. Bill Clinton may carry some counties in Arkansas - the ones that want to send him to Washington and OUT of Arkansas. Clinton is in the process of a public self-immolation that will make Gary Hart's self destruct sequence of four years ago look like simple Monkey Business. Jerry Brown is probably one of the brightest intellects and best intentioned men in the political arena. I genuinely like this man. And I suspect if you got his real thinking behind the "flat tax sound bites" you would find



he's again a visionary. But he has about as much business being president as Geraldo Rivera. He has made almost comically superb use of an 800 number to drive his campaign financially. But overall, we understand the guys down at the Democratic National Headquarters are down to planning a Jim Jones style Kool-Aid Party.

And then there's Ross Perot. He's not running as a Democrat or Republican. In fact, the only way he'll run is if we get out and put him on the ballot in all 50 states. But he will run - if we run with him.

What's his program? What will he do? What does he stand for? Who CARES? He's exciting. He has a true leadership quality. He'll make a horse race out of a deadly boring and doubly deadly disappointing election process. And he's the first plausible third-party Presidential candidate in any of our lifetimes.

It's broken out into a bit of a buzz online. On CompuServe, Perot frenzy has appeared in the Candidacy 92 Forum (GO VOTEFORUM). On THE WELL, in Sausalito, the California Liberals don't know whether to go to the bathroom or wind their wristwatch, but they're talking about it hard in POLITICS and TELECOM.

Best of all, our old buddy Colonel Dave Hughes, of Colorado Springs, has gone completely ballistic on the subject - turning his Rogers Bar BBS upside down after 11 years to make it over into a Ross Perot for President BBS. A sign of the movement: He was teaching 65 elderly computerists (average age 70 years) at a Senior Net User Group meeting how to use his BBS. He showed them a sample telling them it would use the same software as this other one he was working on - a Ross Perot for President BBS. Immediately, they all forgot what they were there for and animatedly became excited at the prospect of Perot running. Democrats and Republicans alike demanded access to the Perot system and wanted to form a petition signature rally. Hughes claims 64 of 65 were ready to sign on the spot. The Perot for President BBS operates at the old Roger's Bar number (719)632-3391 with legal requirements for petitioning, national contact numbers, biographical info on Perot, a "What Can You Do to

Help" section, and of course, the usual discussion areas where everyone can put their two-cents worth in on Perot's chances.

One of the attractive tenets of the Perot campaign is his allusion to an electronic Town Hall Meeting where voters can express themselves on individual issues. Not a lot of detail here, but it would appear that he envisions a combination of telephone and television where issues could be examined, and then public response publicly registered and forwarded to their representatives. We think this would be an inspired step toward electronic democracy.

One of the problems we've had with the concept of true electronic democracy is that there is no buffer to protect our society from the storms of hysteria that mob electronic rule brings to mind. We are a representative form of government and our ostensibly wiser representatives are there to weigh and consider the future, the past, and the wishes of the public before acting. But one of the breakdowns of our current government is that there is no public forum to register sentiment on specific issues. You can vote FOR a man or AGAINST a man at the ballot box once every two years, but you can't vote FOR or AGAINST a particular issue today.

True, you can communicate with your representative directly. The problem with this is that you and he are the only ones who know you did. If I, and a hundred like me send our representative a letter all encouraging a certain position, and US West, a heavy contributor to political campaigns through their PACs, sends ONE letter against, the rep is in most cases going to go with the US West directive and our hundred little notes wind up in the circular file. No one knows that public sentiment among his constituents was a 100 to 1 in favor. He can claim any fictional level of "responsiveness" he wants to and no one can really tell otherwise.

By developing an electronic Town Hall, all those choosing to participate from the couch potato position can register their views in a PUBLIC RECORD forum. Their input would in no way be legally binding on the representative. But come election time, if they voted in concurrence with their constituencies

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cumulative wishes 94% of the time, this would indicate some level of understanding vis a vis those they represent. On the other hand, if they seemed to vote in concurrence 11% of the time, that would probably be a pretty germane campaign issue for an opponent to point out. Just as importantly, the man in office is much less expensively, much more quickly, and much more efficiently able to draw that type of information from his constituency electronically.



We were surprised to learn radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh wasn't too taken with Perot and electronic democracy. Some Perot debate is going on in Rush Limbaugh's discussion area on CompuServe (GO ISSUES). Rush is scared Perot will split the Republican Party and elect a Democrat so he's got a fence so far up his skirt it's causing a nosebleed. But there are already more messages in the Perot topic than the rest of Rush's section put together. More to the point, while Rush isn't too keen on electronic democracy, HE put up two 900 lines by March 31 where you could indicate YES you would vote for Perot on one or NO you wouldn't vote for Perot on the other - at 85 cents a pop. We couldn't actually get through the BUSY signals on the YES line, but apparently Rush is reading the winds of change electronically himself. EIB. Ditto. Snargle, snaffle, or snurgle. Whatever you're drinking, get with the program Limbaugh.

Perot is in tune with communications himself. In the effort to support petition drives in 50 states, he has some 1100 telephone lines operating in Dallas with volunteers manning them and according to aid David Bush, was taking some 18,000 calls hourly by the end of March. Perot has decidedly captured the imagination of somebody out there.

It will require just a little bit of participation to change American political life for the next two decades. But we ought to do it for that reason alone whoever H. Ross Perot is. The Perot Petition Committee Hotline is now available voice at 800-685-7777. We need 5000 signatures here in Colorado to get him on the ticket. Stop by Boardwatch and put your name down. We'll pour you a free cup of coffee anyway and try our best to simulate a smoke-filled room. We endorse Perot for President in 1992. And actually, Jerry Brown as a running mate might not be as bizarre as it sounds.

Jack Rickard  
Editor/Publisher,  
Boardwatch Magazine

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## LETTERS

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Address correspondence to Boardwatch Magazine, 7586 West Jewell Ave., Suite 200, Lakewood, CO 80232.

Dear Jack:

From the "you started this...." department, or "Lass weauk ayh culd nayt speyl SYSUP, nyow ayh ur one."

You published the announcement on SAPPHIRE 4.0. I read it. The primal urge to become a real Bulletin Board Operator exploded in a frenzy of downloading, dearchiving, and configuring. I couldn't believe it! A real BBS up and running in ONE HOUR. Believe me, having assisted in setting up a Telegard system, I know what a miracle this is. Could I be so bold as to suggest that SAPPHIRE might be the Volkswagen of the online world?

Anyway, my users (both of them) have requested I make arrangements to post the ON-LINE EDITION of BOARDWATCH. So, what do I have to do?

Mike Nees, Sysop  
Possum on the Half-Shell BBS  
(817)968-5883  
Stephenville Texas

Mike:

BBSs, like most good games such as golf, chess, and bridge, can be played on a LOT of different levels. I've seen golfers who consistently play in the low eighties (on 9 holes actually) who loved the game as avidly as someone with the same score for a full round of 18. We've actually reviewed quality bulletin boards that served well a small group of people in the Pacific Northwest, running two hours each evening on a C-64 computer that by all rights probably should have been relegated to controlling a lamp somewhere by now. By dialing 10 slightly different digits, you're connected to someone else's basement dream with over 100 telephone lines hooked up to it. And it doesn't take much more effort to join a group of a million callers on a much larger commercial service such as CompuServe.

For BBS software vendors, this poses an impossible dilemma. Everyone starts out designing something that is "easy to use, and easy to run." This is the holy grail of BBS design and the author of almost every package of the market started with that as a goal. Once you learn to run SAPPHIRE and both your callers learn to use it, you'll stumble on the "if only it would do this one more thing" situation. An avid fan of SAPPHIRE, you'll undoubtedly call Tom and suggest it. And he'll be hard pressed to refuse an enthusiastic supporter.

eSoft released version 2.2 of The Bread Board System, months late, in November, 1991. According to author Phil Becker, this new release had more NEW features than TBBS 2.1 had FEATURES to begin with. Frankly, I hadn't learned all the features in the three year-old 2.1 version yet. And eSoft's hardly alone. The escalating number of things you can do with a BBS presses just as hard on Clark Development, MSI, and Galacticom. Clark is working on a UNIX version of PC Board, MSI is trying to link with every known e-mail island in the free world, and Galacticom is experimenting with 900/976 numbers. The quest is on.

I'm reminded of Don Mankin's design goal to develop a BBS that could be installed in 15 minutes and run off a single 360KB floppy. It was called Minihost and it worked. Actually, it developed something of a following just because it WAS incredibly easy to install, run, and use. But it too succumbed to featuritis a bit and grew into Maxihost, and I think most recently into something titled Megahost. Megahost now occupies 384KB of RAM and can contain up to two billion callers in the user database. Since the whole planet only supports a little over five billion, I've got to wonder who insisted on THAT feature.

In any event, I still find the basic desire to run a system and share some messages and files with a few friends as an appropriate place to start out as a sysop. It's good to hear that packages like SAPPHIRE still do exist to give operators a starting place without requiring a graduate course in BBSology to get running. Possum on the Half-Shell is easily



as valid as Prodigy, and probably MORE likely to develop something new or useful.

Boardwatch is currently featured on 70-some odd bulletin boards world wide who pay a license fee of \$250 annually to do so. We'd be pleased to count you among them. Complete information on the how and why is available on our system at (303)973-4222.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

I wanted to pass on another source for opening a Mastercard or Visa merchant accounts - Independent Resources Network. They're located in New York (but will work with people outside NY) and the salesperson we got an account for ECHO (for those that don't know, ECHO is a BBS located in NYC) Patrick Francis, can be reached at: (516)942-0100.

The lease charges and the discount rate I got were lower than the lowest in the range you posted in the December issue although the application fee is higher (\$195). However, as you know, the lease charges and discount rates are going to differ depending on the company applying so not everyone is going to get these rates necessarily.

I looked all over the country, I talked to countless banks and companies like Independent Resources and Patrick Francis at IRN was the first to have a relatively informed understanding of the nature of this business. I hope this information will be helpful to others out there looking to get a Mastercard/Visa merchant account.

Boardwatch is great and getting better and better. It's one of the few magazines I read practically cover to cover - keep up the good work. And congratulations to you and Nancy and the little Rickard to be.

Regards;

Stacy Horn.  
Sysop, ECHO  
New York City, New York

Dear Stacy;

Thanks for passing on this information. The ability to travel currency electronically is key to the development of this business. Fortunately, a few banks and service firms are "getting with the program" and I'm told by some that they are actually growing to like the BBS business as the relatively low traffic levels (typically \$500 to \$5000 monthly) pose what they consider very low risk. We're seeing more of the independent service agents who are starting to actually seek the business. But in general, it remains very difficult for new home businesses and online services.

For our readers benefit, it is probably worthwhile noting that Stacy Horn and co-conspirator Carmela Federico are working to develop a Women's Online Network (WON) based on the ECHO system in New York. WON exists to provide a useful means of uniting feminists and mobilizing them for more effective, consolidated action and to provide a forum for the development and realization of feminist goals. It probably sounds worse than it is. Actually, while we don't share the vision, we applaud the application of technology to reach the unconnected.

Stacy will also be chairing a session at the ONE BBSCON on the topic of Women Online. She can be reached via Internet at horn@echo.panix.com or at ECHO - (212)989-8411.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

By now you must have received several letters questioning the caption of your prospective son's ultrasound.

"First Male and Heir Apparent to the Rickard Dynasty" indeed. What does that make your daughters? Funny how one can be on the technological cutting edge yet behind the sociological times.

Sincerely;

Edward F. Kunin  
Attorney at Law  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Dear Ed

Actually not Ed - your's is the first. But you caught me red handed. In many ways, I take enormous pride and great personal satisfaction in being decidedly "behind the sociological times." But to answer your question, it makes my daughters a dominant majority at clan Rickard. With three older sisters, the lad's got enough of a row to hoe before him. Let him have his fifteen minutes of fame.

Jack Rickard

Jack,

I just read your March issue and noticed in your reply to a Letter to the Editor that you noted my insistence on a Letter to the Editor section and my failure to write once said section was instituted. Please allow me to correct that oversight.

You say that the L2E section "has proven popular beyond all reason" and you don't understand why. Not being a psychologist, I can only offer a guess and an opinion, but here goes: I think a L2E section gives the readers a sense of ownership and participation in your magazine. By reading the letters, all readers know that:

1. There's more than just themselves reading your rag.
2. Some of the writers have opinions on the editorial content that a particular reader may or may not agree with.
3. You, the editor, actually read some of the correspondence aimed your way.

I suspect that the reason you "don't get it" is that you have no need for a sense of ownership in someone else's magazine, having one of your own. As a publisher, you are in a much different position than most magazine readers; call it a sense of empowerment, if you will.

On a totally different subject: You have been pushing the idea that "the year of the BBS" is "real soon now", and that it is possible to operate a multi-line Bulletin Board at a profit. Having been a system operator myself for some time now, and paying attention to what's going on, both in the world around me,



and on my own multi-line BBS, I think you're right. People are clamoring for information and contact with others, and the medium of a BBS, with echomail and/or online chat seems to fill at least part of that need. You're no doubt aware of the so-called "cocooning" movement, where people are building home entertainment centers and are no longer leaving their houses for leisure-time activities. Calling Bulletin Boards with their home computers seems to fit right in with that concept.

Your perception that specialized BBS's, catering to narrowly-targeted audiences will be very successful, perhaps more so than more general types, has some support in the real world. Look at the success of special-interest magazines, sold to folks into jogging, for instance. There may be only a very few people in a particular area interested in Lawn Care (to steal your favorite example of a special-interest BBS). Even though they are too few in number to support a local Club, if you were to put them together with others across the country, there could be sufficient numbers to make a "Lawn Care BBS" a busy one, indeed. And, because it's a specialized hobby, and the BBS has little competition, the callers would be willing to pay, and pay much more than for a more general-interest BBS.

Finally, I've also been following your magazine for some time now, and have watched it grow and mature. (Slick paper!?) We've met in person, and I'll repeat a comment made at one of those meetings: "It'll be my pleasure to be able to say, 'I knew Jack Rickard when...'..." You got in on this movement before most recognized it as a movement, and not only are you one of the most astute observers of the online scene, you're one of its biggest promoters. You're one of the people who are "making it happen", and I wish you all the future success in the world.

Jim Dunmyer  
System Operator  
Toledo's TBBS of Maumee Valley  
1:234/2

Jim:

*Well, clearly you were right. I don't read letters sections in other magazines myself, and made that a habit for years*

*before I ever started Boardwatch. But since you first mentioned it, I've asked any number of people and they read them religiously. Another example of "just because I don't get it, doesn't mean it's not there to be got."*

*Yes, it would appear that BBSs are entering their day in the sun. Wynn Wagner III, the author of Opus CBBS, is reported to have commented on the explosion over the past few months that I think is telling. Opus is essentially free BBS software and introduced a number of "firsts" to the BBS community, the ZMODEM file transfer protocol most notably. But some companies that use BBS software just have to send some money to somebody to internally be able to use it. Wagner listed an AIDS charitable group as the appropriate place to send these lost souls with their voluntary contributions. Apparently, from 1987 to the end of 1991, this generated about \$20,000 income for the AIDS group.*

*Opus is not now one of the more popular packages. It is still quite capable, has a number of new features, and a good group of users who still avidly support it. But it's not normally cited as the main-stream leading edge package in BBS software. Still, it's generated nearly \$50,000 in income for the AIDS group from December 91 through March of 92 - over twice what it generated in the first four years of life.*

*Mainstream BBS software vendors such as Mustang, eSoft, and Clark Development, are a little shy of showing us their exact numbers, and we are of course too polite to ask outright. But from what we can tell, apparently the roof has blown off in the last six months - minimum 50% increase in monthly business and for some double. Doing nothing particularly differently, their businesses have doubled in size in the past half-year.*

*What does all this mean? Most of the numbers and estimates of operational BBSs, callers, etc. that we have in the past published in Boardwatch Magazine are entirely meaningless now. Worse, the methodologies we use to estimate those numbers have a time latency such that we DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NEW NUMBERS ARE to a calendar*

*granularity that would have any meaning or value whatsoever. We're looking at ways to get well, but it's not easy.*

*Our little statistical problem is the on-line community's massive good fortune. The BBS industry, the number of systems in operation, and activity across the board is in a word, burgeoning. Basically, BBS software vendors have to wear a bucket over their head when they go outside to keep from getting money in their hair. This is good, but not all good. Growth can itself be a problem for these companies and many BBS operators are NOT getting the cozy one-to-one intimate product support relationship they are accustomed to enjoying. And the money for the most part, goes back into the product and support infrastructure - itself a headache for these vendors.*

*With a little calendar lag, we project the same thing will happen to BBS operators over the next 12 to 18 months. Cocooning is a big part of it. You can travel the world, make new friends, make new enemies, argue heatedly till the wee hours of the morning, and never have to find a parking spot, worry about a designated driver, or leave your own cozy little electronic den.*

*In any event, it's good to hear from one of the grand old men of the BBS rank and file. We've closed the loop. You wanted L2E, you got L2E, and now you're in L2E. Poetic justice done.*

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

Maybe you can help me with something. I'm sure many BBS users and other sysops have had this problem. How do you explain to someone that doesn't know anything about bulletin board systems what a BBS is? Being a sysop myself many people have asked me "What is it?". I usually say, "It's hard to explain." Needless to say they become uninterested. If there was an easy way to explain it I believe more people would become interested in BBSing. Who knows, maybe BBSing will become so popular that we'll see a billboard or a TV commercial for one. Philip Alloca  
The Campus BBS  
Melville, New York



Dear Philip:

*If there was an easy way to explain it, I'd be out of a job. What's a pencil? A tool for communicating on paper. What's a BBS? A tool for communicating by computer. True, the pencil definition inadequately describes either Tolstoy's War and Peace or the love letter that captured a heart, caused a marriage, and led to several generations of people who would never have been without it. Likewise, my definition of BBS is likely to leave you a little less than satisfied - for precisely the same reasons.*

*I suspect you're struggling to encapsulate the entire universe of data communications in twenty-five words or less. While an admirable goal, if this were possible, what we would have is an RS-232 version of CB radio and it would quite likely have died about seven years before you started your BBS system. What we actually have is the pencil, the paper, the postage stamp, the mail service, and the ability to deliver at a near approximation of the speed of light globally and do so in quantities of hundreds or thousands of pages at a stroke.*

*And basically, we're a little shy of War and Peace at this point. I would say we're more in the stage of learning to put an eraser on the pencil, learning to bond graphite to spruce more effectively, and struggling with the concept of a hand-cranked pencil sharpener.*

*Billboards and TV commercials? Earth to Philip: Prodigy and CompuServe advertise both ways on a near daily basis. The differences between large commercial services and BBSs are rapidly approaching a function of scale only. I think Prodigy would like the analogy of a Montblanc Pen (Prodigy) to a pencil stub. I prefer that of a Pilot Ultrapoint (BBS) to an air compressor paint sprayer (Prodigy) - it has much more capacity and covers a wider area, but you can sure make a mess with it if you don't know what you're doing.*

*I too believe more people will become interested in BBSing - no matter how you explain it.*

Jack Rickard

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## TELEBITS

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### RUMORS, MIGHT BE'S, NUMBERS CAUGHT IN PASSING

One of the promises the early "visionaries" of the computer age noted was a dramatic decrease in the use of paper as an information medium. Well it didn't work out that way. In 1960, American offices disposed of **1.5 million** tons of paper, according to Inform, a non-profit environmental research organization in New York. By 1988, the nation's offices were dumping **7.3 million** tons of paper. Much of the waste comes from laser printers and photocopiers. Using a figure of 3 million tons of paper manufactured just for photocopiers and laser printers in 1990, the organization calculates that Americans made **444,236,100,953** copies and laser printouts that year - about **1735** photocopies for each man, woman, and child in the United States.

**Software Etc.** - a chain of over 250 stores carrying popular software titles at a discount, books, and a few magazines (including Boardwatch), is rumored to have filed papers with the Securities Exchange Commission noting their intention to issue an Initial Public Offering of stock. We assume the proceeds would go to continuing their aggressive expansion across the country. We've found them remarkably handy for the sudden purchase when time is of the essence and were surprised to find their prices on software packages discounted to a very competitive level.

Microsoft seems to be in the news a bit. Apparently, they intend to release Windows 3.1 on April 6th at a price of **\$49.95**. The company has also released an announcement that Apple Computer has raised the damages sought in their infringement suit against Windows a cool \$1 billion to a total of **\$5.55 billion**. And finally, the company has announced its acquisition of Fox Software and the FoxPro database product in a **\$173 million** stock swap deal. The move was seen as a counter to Borland's purchase of Ashton Tate and the dBase IV product line.

**TAGLINES:** Taglines are short phrases that online messaging aficionados append to their messages - typically to amuse. Recently seen in the Internet ALT.BBS news group:

*"It's a small world, but I wouldn't want to paint it."*

*"Saddam Hussein still has a job. Do you?"*

*"Fermilab is far to large to have an opinion, let alone mine."*

*"Stamp out signature viruses! Pass it on!"*

*"If builders built buildings the way programmers wrote programs....."*

University of Iowa speech pathology professor Dr. Ingo Titze sang an operatic duet on April 6th with a robot he calls Pavarobotti. The robot does not use a digitally simulated human voice like most voice applications. It was modeled after the physics of human speech and listeners reported it was nearly indistinguishable from human speech.

The aerospace industry lost **106,000** jobs in 1991. Employment in the industry peaked in December 1989 at **1.33 million**. Since then, one job in eight has evaporated.

AT&T long distance rates have decreased **44.6%** since divestiture on January 1, 1984.

IBM has opened a national customer service center hotline to provide customer assistance with questions on the OS/2 operating system. The new 2.0 version is slated for release on March 31. The voice hotline is available at **800-PS2-2227**.

Approximately 1/4 of the land area of Los Angeles, California is devoted to the parking and feeding of automobiles.

Donald Duck's middle name - Fauntleroy.

The Federal Government owns **32%** of all land in the United States.

**Fortune Magazine** has released their annual list of the 500 largest industrial companies in the United States. Notable



in this year's release was the fact that **103** of the largest **500** companies in the country were losers this year. Net income for the group dropped **41 %** to **\$55 billion** from **\$93 billion** last year. It was the worst drop since the magazine started the list 38 years ago.

## TELEPHONE STUFF

Jones International Ltd., parent company of cable tv provider Jones Inter-cable, plans to offer local, private-line telephone service in Chicago via a subsidiary titled Jones Chicago Lightwave. The service will target suburban locations and the company plans expansion to Atlanta and Tampa within the year. Despite howls of rage from Illinois Bell Telephone, The Illinois Public Utilities Commission has openly stated they would like Chicago to become a "free trade zone for telecommunications."

We understand AT&T has gone into the BBS business. They've put up an online service titled AT&T News Online and we understand the service provides an electronic copy of their 1991 Annual Stockholders Report. Unfortunately the service hasn't apparently discovered autobaud modems, which have been around long enough now that you rarely see the term. A 1200 bps connection is available at (908)221-8088 while 2400 bps callers can dial (908)221-2701. We can't really comment on the service though. Predictably, no matter what we tried, we couldn't actually connect to the service. The system answers with garbage strings.

The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association reports that the cellular business grew some **43%** in 1991 adding **2.3 million** subscribers to a new total of **7.6 million** U.S. cellular telephone subscribers who coughed up a 1991 total of **\$5.7 billion** to reach out and touch someone sans the wiring. Employment in the industry rose to **26,327**. An investment of **\$2.4 billion** in 1991 brings the total dollar count poured into the new telephone technology at **\$8.7 billion**. The average monthly cellular bill fell to **\$72.74** from 1990's **\$80.90** and the average duration of a call - **2.38** minutes.

MCI Communications announced March 31 that it will no longer provide 900 number billing services for com-

panies that promise to help getting credit, credit cards, or loans. MCI had earlier announced they were dropping billing services for sex lines. Apparently the long distance service providers, after pricing 900 services so high that only sex and fraud could survive profitably, now don't seem to like their customer base.

## WHERE DID THE WORD "HELLO" COME FROM?

The word "hello" is so much a part of our language we can hardly imagine having a conversation without it. But it was an entirely made up word to accommodate the introduction of telephones in 1878.

Early telephones didn't really have a "ring" to alert you you had an incoming call. Some installations had open lines all the time connecting business offices in different cities. If someone wanted to talk, they simply yelled into the microphone and someone on the other end could then answer. The etiquette of the period strongly advocated not speaking to anyone until you were properly introduced. With the invention of the telephone, people in distant cities could, for the first time, speak to each other directly. But no one quite knew what to say.

Alexander Bell, generally acknowledged as the inventor of the telephone insisted that the word "Ahoy" was the proper way to "answer" the telephone. His fiercest competitor was Thomas Alva Edison. In an August 15, 1877 letter to T.B.A. David, President of the Central District and Printing Telegraph Company in Pittsburgh, Edison notes that he did not think a call bell would be necessary as HELLO could be heard 15-20 feet from the receiver.

Edison installed most of the first telephone exchange equipment. The first public exchange was opened in New Haven on January 28, 1878. The operator manual that Edison provided with the switching equipment suggested both "Hello" and "What is wanted" as appropriate terms for switchboard operators to use in answering calls. It would appear that "Hello" won out eventually.

Oddly, today the word hello is actually under some assault as the opening phrase in telephone conversations. From our experience, we would say the term "Can you hold" seems to be gaining adherents across the nation.

## HDTV UPDATE

In July of 1978 I purchased a 25-inch GTE color television set - but not after some agonizing over it. It appeared that a new TV technology - High Definition Television or HDTV seemed just around the corner and promised clarity comparable to 35 mm photographic film. I was sure that we wouldn't have the new GTE completely warmed up before everyone would be getting the new HDTV models. Some fourteen years and two color picture tubes later, I've still got the GTE. And HDTV seems farther away than ever.

But some progress is being made. A Zenith-AT&T Digital Spectrum compatible HDTV system is the third of five competing systems to undergo an 8-week battery of tests at the Advanced Television Test Center in Alexandria Virginia. The FCC is expected to adopt an HDTV standard in 1993 and it intends to issue free HDTV licenses to some 1700 existing television stations. The first public HDTV transmission here in the U.S. occurred at noon, Monday, March 23rd, 1992 from WETA TV in Washington DC. The fifteen-minute transmission used some HDTV equipment built by General Instruments and MIT and the White House was about the only home sporting a receiver that could view it.

## PLAYBOY MAGAZINE SUES EVENT HORIZONS BBS FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

One of the most popular activities online in recent months involves the download of GIF images. GIF images are scanned photographs held in CompuServe's Graphics Interchange Format (GIF). Numerous utility programs abound to view these GIF images on VGA color monitors. Many of the more popular images involve nudity and some are grossly obscene.



## BULLETIN BOARD OPERATOR DISCOUNT PROGRAMS V.32 and V.32bis Modems

VENDOR	MODEL	LIST	SYSOP	BBS	VOICE	FAX
ATI Technologies	ATI V.32	\$699	\$350	416-756-4591	416-756-0718	
Cardinal Technologies	9600V42 V.32	\$699	\$269	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	
CompuCom	Star V.23bis	\$539	\$399	415-499-7711	415-499-7600	415-499-3366
Computer Peripherals	Viva 9624e V.32	\$349	\$249	805-499-9646	805-499-5751	805-498-8306
Galaxy Networks	UFO V.32bis	\$999	\$299		818-998-7851	818-998-1758
GVC Technologies	FM-9696/144V V.32bis	\$689	\$413	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
GVC Technologies	SM-96V V.32	\$599	\$329	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
Hayes Microcomputer	Ultra 144 V.32bis	\$1199	\$599	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	Ultra 96 V.32	\$999	\$399	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Image Communications	Twincomm 9600 V.32	\$299	\$279		201-935-8880	201-935-6548
Intel Corporation	14.4EX V.32bis	\$699	\$399	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Intel Corporation	9600EX V.32	\$599	\$299	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Multi-Tech Systems	MT932BA V.32	\$869	\$435	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-987
Multi-Tech Systems	MT1432BA V.32bis	\$899	\$450	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXSA V.32bis	\$549	\$250	818-706-2467	818-706-0333	818-706-2474
Supra Corporation	SupraFAX V.32bis	\$399	\$249		503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Supra Corporation	SupraFAX V.32	\$299	\$199		503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Telebit Corporation	T3000 V.32bis	\$949	\$399		408-734-4333	408-734-3333
U.S. Robotics	HST/DS V.32bis	\$1295	\$499	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	
Ven-Tel	EC96 V.32	\$699	\$439	408-922-0988	408-436-7400	408-436-7451
ZyXEL	U-1496E V.32bis	\$695	\$370	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705

Aside from the question of pornography online, the question of copyright has arisen more than once. One of the great debates in Internet is whether scanned images from Penthouse Magazine and Playboy Magazine constitute copyright infringement. Undoubtedly they do, but the online world is such that even fairly basic issues can be debated for months without resolution.

Jim Maxey's **Event Horizon BBS (503)697-5100** has enjoyed some considerable success in the BBS world, primarily by offering scanned images in the popular GIF image file format. Maxey was reported to admit to a daily income of over **\$8000** from his 64-line TBBS system in Lake Oswego Oregon.

But according to many BBS operators, Maxey had an odd view of the ownership of the GIF images. Despite scanning copyrighted images of nudes from copyrighted magazines, he had reportedly threatened several other bulletin board systems with a copyright infringement lawsuit if they did not remove images from their systems that had been downloaded from Event Horizons.

Apparently that posture came home to haunt him. On March 28, *Playboy Magazine* filed suit in Oregon against

Event Horizons citing willful copyright infringement. The suit alleges that Event Horizons allowed copyrighted photographs to be scanned into its computer system and subsequently made those images available for download by modem. The suit names Event Horizons and James Maxey as defendants.

In a released statement, Playboy general council Howard Shapiro said "Event Horizons never obtained authorization to copy or publish Playboy's copyrighted works and has never compensated Playboy for doing so, although it has profited from bulletin board user fees and disk sales. In using the words 'Playboy' and 'Playmate' in image descriptions, Event Horizons has indicated its awareness of Playboy's ownership of the photographs. We are filing this suit because Event Horizons continued to use Playboy's photographs after repeatedly being asked to cease publication of all Playboy-owned works"

### MICROCOM MICROPORTE - HIGH SPEED POCKET MODEM

Microcom has introduced a new 10-ounce pocket modem for road warriors they call the **MicroPorte 4232bis**. The unit measures 4.5 X 2.75 X 1.5 inches and is priced at a very proud **\$899**.

The modem features four LEDs for power, low battery, speed, and DTR that are a little short on information. Two RJ-11 jacks provide connections to the telephone line and a separate telephone. A 9-pine RS-232 serial port provides the connection to the computer. Microcom developed the **Microcom Networking Protocol or MNP**, a series of algorithms to perform error correction and compression and this pocket rocket supports MNP2-5 and MNP 10. MNP 10 is more casually referred to as the Cellular protocol in that it is designed to overcome the "adverse channel" characteristics of a hostile cellular telephone environment. The modem also supports V.42 error correction and V.42bis compression - essentially THE standard at this point in almost all new modem models.



## JOIN THE NO. 1 CHESS CONNECTION

Join the USA TODAY Sports Center, the electronic sports and games network. A modem and membership to the Sports Center are all you need to:

- Play chess 24 hours a day
- Chat with other chess enthusiasts
- Join postal tourneys by APCT
- Read Seirawan's INSIDE CHESS
- Participate in online events
- Keep up with international tournaments
- Compete in simul exhibitions
- Exchange ideas on the Chess Forum

Just \$19.95 gets you a Sports Center membership, our graphic, communication software; and a connection to non-stop chess news and competition. Online rates as low as \$5.95 an hour. Call today for a free brochure.



# Sports Center

1-800-826-9688 Ext. 55

The big news with the MicroPorte 4232bis model is the 14,400 bps V.32bis modulation standard. Almost none of the pocket modems, including the Telebit QBlazer reviewed last issue, support the 14,400 bps standard. Microcom, 500 River Ridge Road, Norwood, MA 02062; (617)551-1000.

### RUN YOUR PC REMOTELY BY FAX USING SMART PAPER

Xerox Corp. has announced a new technology they call "smart paper" allowing users to use a fax machine to perform some limited functions on their PCs from a remote location.

The PaperWorks product is a \$249.95 software package that monitors incoming faxes. If the fax contains PaperWorks smart codes, the software reads instructions from the fax and can retrieve data, respond by fax, and perform a limited set of other functions. In this way, a user could send a fax to their PC asking that a specific client's file be faxed back to them. The recognition instructions are encoded somewhat like

barcodes, but in a slightly more forgiving herringbone data pattern at the top of the page. Contact Xerox at (800)432-9329.

### CLARK DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES PCBOARD DOOR DEVELOPER'S KIT

Clark Development has just released a new PCBoard DOOR developer's tool kit which allows third party authors to more easily develop DOOR and utility program applications for use with PCBoard systems. According to David W. Terry, Director of Programming for CDC, "Customers have long requested a library that could be used to help make writing DOOR programs easier for BBSs based on PCBoard and we are pleased to now offer this toolkit to our customers."

According to Terry, the main features of the library include:

- Borland C and C++ compatibility.

- Support for COM1-COM8 with selectable port address and IRQ settings (2-15).
- Data rates up to 115,200 bps including 16550AFN UART support
- Fully network compatible.
- Multitasking aware.
- Automatic carrier loss detection, keyboard timeout, and session timeout control.
- Built-in high speed ANSI driver and full support of PCBoard @ control codes.
- Easy access to **USERS.SYS**, **PCBOARD.SYS**, and **CNAMES.@@@** files.
- High performance file access routines (up to 912% faster than Borland's).
- Built-in file sharing for networks and multitaskers.
- PCBoard bottom of screen status lines.

The function library makes it much easier for programmers to port applications to the PCBoard communications environment without struggling with the interface to PCBoard or the com-



# Convenience of Payment

What if McDonald's, the hamburger company, had tried to get started this way:

*You're out cruising in your '57 Chevy, and an interesting looking new hamburger stand catches your attention. You drive up, and a waitress appears. She asks for your name and password. You have none, so she explains that, in order to buy hamburgers, you must register in advance, and make a minimum payment by credit card or mail. This will entitle you to a certain number of hamburgers per week. Each time you want a hamburger, you simply give your name and password, and the appropriate "hamburger credits" are deducted from your account. When your hamburger account starts to run low, you will be alerted to buy more, or, you can arrange to have your credit card automatically billed.*

Would you have bought a single hamburger this way? Would anybody? Yet that is exactly what the online world has asked its customers to do... until now.

## Breakthrough Billing Service = BBS

The convenience of cash is taken for granted in everyday business transactions. You want a Coke — you drop a coin in a machine. You go to a movie — you fork over the cash, they hand you a ticket.

Online services can't work that way, because the customer is not physically present at the place of business. It's not that he doesn't want to fork over the cash, or that he considers it too expensive. It's just that the logistics of getting the cash out of his pocket and into yours are too awkward. Credit cards are no good for several reasons:

- Many people may be reluctant to give you their credit card number for fear of hackers
- Many teenagers who use BBS's don't have credit cards
- Banks are highly distrustful of credit-card-over-the-phone types of businesses, which makes it hard to become a "merchant"
- The low dollar amounts per sale make the overhead of filling out slips or phoning for validation a large fraction of revenue

Billing your customers doesn't work either. Many of them will put off paying your bill — but they will feel guilty about it, so they'll put off calling your system until

they get around to paying your bill, but they never get around to paying your bill — and the net result is that you lose both the money and the customer.

The answer is a 976- or 1-900- number. The customer can call an automated voice synthesis machine, which reads off a number to him. He then calls your BBS and punches in the number. Presto! Instant online time! The charges appear as a small additional amount on his phone bill at the end of the month.

Please enter your selection, or X to logoff: /GO 976

The following 976-BBS services are available:

G => General Information  
R => Redeem a Number  
X => Exit to main menu

Select a letter from the above list, or X to exit: G

Welcome to 976-BBS! 976-BBS is a service that allows you to buy credits easily and quickly by making one phone call to 976-SHAE. When you call that number, you will be given a redemption code. Once you have the code, call this system back, enter the code using option 'R' from the 976-BBS menu and you will be posted 21600 credits instantly. If you have any questions or problems with this service, a customer representative can be reached at 583-5998. The charge for calling 976-SHAE is \$4.58 and it will be billed to you by your phone company.

Select a 976-BBS option (G,R,X, or ? for help): R

Please enter your redemption code: 564782189

21600 Paid Credits have just been added to your account.  
Thank you for choosing the Isles of Shae.

1-2 for Help : 976-BBS : 19400-001 PDX : : : Online 01:22

Once a user has called your 976- number, he can dial back into your BBS and redeem his code. On the Isles of Shae, where this software was tested, 976-SHAE became the preferred method of payment almost immediately.

People always pay their phone bills — or they don't have phones. You get paid directly by the phone company, so you don't have the hassle of filling out long deposit slips or chasing down bad checks. And your customers can buy online time from you "on impulse", with no inconvenience or delay. Your own time is freed up, since you don't have to get involved in the day-to-day posting of credits and management of accounts. And best of all, new prospects can give your system a try — as full-fledged paying customers — on their very first call.

## Here's How It Works

You'll need a second computer, a 976- or 1-900- number, and the Galacticomm 976-BBS™ package. (We assume you are running The Major BBS® with full source code licenses or you wouldn't be in this business.)

You take the online "module" part of the 976-BBS software and add it to your MAKETSYS file. You install the Talking Technologies Powerline II card (which comes included in our 976-BBS package) in the second comput-



er, along with our voice-configuration software. You use any ordinary telephone handset to "program" the system with your particular header/trailer messages ("Hello, thanks for calling the XYZ BBS credit service..."), the digits in your own voice, and so on.

This second computer doesn't have to be at the same location as your BBS — you don't need them hooked together over a LAN or a dedicated phone line. Instead, the 976-BBS software uses a proprietary, dual-password scheme that allows the voice-server and the online redemption mechanism to generate the same sequence of codes. The security architecture also guarantees that each 976-BBS package will generate its own unique code sequences. And the odds of someone guessing a valid code are less than one in ten million.

At this stage, you will need to determine how much you're going to charge for each call and how many hours of online time a user will get for a valid redemption code. You'll probably want to keep the charge reasonably small (between \$4 and \$8). If you charge too little, your users will get annoyed at having to keep calling the 976- number to get more credits every hour (also, if your phone company gets a certain minimum amount per call, this will cut into your profit margin). If you charge too much, however, people will think twice before picking up the phone.

You should check your local tariffs to make sure your messages contain any necessary disclaimers (e.g., "each call will cost such-and-such plus toll, if any", "if you're under 18 you must get the permission of a parent").

Next, you configure the online module. What's the 976- number users should call? What voice phone number should they call if there's a problem? How much will they be charged for each call? How many credits will they get? You can also configure the number of attempts a user can make to redeem an invalid code before being automatically logged off. Anytime a user is logged off for trying to redeem a false code, a message is generated in the Audit Trail, alerting the Sysop.

Now, plug your 976- line into the back of the Powerline II card and fire up the voice-server software. You'll be able to see calls as they come in, and you can use the arrow keys to scroll through a history of all

976-BBS - ANSWER MODULE - V1.00					
TOTAL CALLS	CALLS TODAY	DATE	TIME	CURRENT STATUS	
2871	69	02/03/92	22:05:36	Waiting for call	
DAY NO.	TOTAL NO.	TIME	DATE	NUMBER GIVEN	
54	2856	18:42:38	02/03/92	578924558	
55	2857	18:58:44	02/03/92	557356894	
56	2858	18:55:54	02/03/92	414983681	
57	2859	19:01:02	02/03/92	845875139	
58	2860	19:08:38	02/03/92	854873256	
59	2861	19:22:10	02/03/92	896413259	
60	2862	19:48:24	02/03/92	545636975	
61	2863	19:41:32	02/03/92	512323899	
62	2864	19:44:08	02/03/92	698536974	
63	2865	19:45:18	02/03/92	181656989	
64	2866	19:59:22	02/03/92	548987931	
65	2867	20:18:56	02/03/92	964774351	
66	2868	20:31:02	02/03/92	636589653	
67	2869	20:44:42	02/03/92	536123786	
68	2870	20:56:48	02/03/92	897325413	
69	2871	21:04:32	02/03/92	884798651	

The 976-BBS server software uses a voice synthesis card to present callers with their redemption codes.

redemption codes given out, each one time and date stamped. Last step: activate your Online Redemption Center and announce to the world your new breakthrough billing service!

## Just a Phone Call Away...

Imagine how much easier it will be for a first-time caller to join your BBS:

*It's 10 PM. You decide to call a new BBS you've just heard about. You log on and are told that this is a pay-for-play system, but you are invited to try a free demo. You enter the teleconference, and WOW! There's a small group playing poker, a heated debate over the last Superbowl, people hugging each other. Someone whispers a private hello to you, and you get involved in a discussion with someone you knew in school. Suddenly, you get a message that your free demo time is up, but you can call a 976- number to buy another 4 hours of time for \$5. You quickly pick up the phone and give it a call. Two minutes later, you've logged back on, redeemed your code, and returned to your conversation. What a cool system!*

Give us a call at 305-583-5990. Soon you can concentrate all your efforts on making your BBS the best it can be. And once a month, deposit those checks from the phone company.

# GALACTICOMM

Galacticomm, Inc. 4101 S.W. 47 Ave.  
Suite 101, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

Modem: (305) 583-7808  
Fax: (305) 583-7846  
Voice: (305) 583-5990



munications housekeeping. Many of the beta testers of the toolkit reported they were able to write a complete operational DOOR program for PCBoard in less than 24 hours using the library. The PCBoard DOOR developer's toolkit is priced at \$180. Clark Development Company, 3950 South 700 East, Suite 303, Murray, UT 84107; (801)261-1686 voice; (801)261-8987 fax; (801)261-8976 BBS.

### NEW COMPUCOM SPEEDSTER MODEL OFFERS V.32bis AT \$279

CompuCom Corporation has announced a new **SpeedModem Speedster** model, the industry's first 14,400 bps V.32bis modem selling for less than \$300. The internal circuit card modem will feature a list price of \$279. A Speedster Plus version will be available with send/receive fax for \$329.

The Speedster will allow V.32bis 14,400 bps connections, is fully Hayes compatible, and features the now ubiquitous V.42/42bis error correction/compression standards. CompuCom also includes a 5-year warranty and a 30-day money-back guarantee.

The CompuCom line is based on Digital Signal Processor technology - basically a computer with a DSP chip to perform the communications. The Speedster modem uses a new Analog Devices Signal Processing Computer chipset - basically an ADC31 8-bit controller, the equivalent of an Analog Devices 2101 DSP, and an Analog/Digital conversion (CODAC) chip. This new chipset is capable of performing some 48 million operations per second. An EPROM contains the programming to accomplish the modem and fax functions.

CompuCom broke into the BBS market over a year ago with a proprietary modulation technique they call CSP. CSP allowed 9600 bps connections but only with another CompuCom modem. The feature that captured a number of hearts in BBSland was the price - \$169. CompuCom has since introduced several modems that do follow CCITT standards - to further success.

The \$279 Speedster is expected to ship by the end of April. CompuCom Corporation, 47 Paul Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903; (800)748-6840 or (415)499-7600 voice; (415)499-7711 BBS

### U.S. ROBOTICS INTRODUCES NEW DUAL STANDARD MODEL WITH 16.8KBPS HST MODE

Modem maker U.S. Robotics actually introduced the concept of sysop discounts with their 2400 bps modem back in 1984. They also operated a FidoNet system shortly after it became possible to operate one at about the same time.

As a result, for some time they pretty much owned the modem market among electronic bulletin boards. The introduction of their proprietary 9600 bps HST model in 1987 became the de facto standard for high-speed communications in FidoNet. And even today, the Courier Dual Standard modem, supporting both 14,400 bps V.32bis and 14,400 bps HST modes is considered the Cadillac among BBS operators.

Despite a list price still over a thousand dollars, the Dual Standard is available on the street for a little under \$800 and BBS operators patient enough to wait

for a couple of months through the waiting list can get the model for \$499 plus shipping.

But the HST part of the dual standard has largely slipped into some level of irrelevancy. When first introduced, this asymmetrical 9600 bps connection was four times faster than the CCITT "standard" mode of 2400 bps the world had to live with. Today, the 14,400 bps HST mode actually fares poorly by comparison to the true bi-directional 14,400 bps V.32bis mode available on the same modem. The HST function is still popular largely to allow high speed connections to those with the older model HSTs - a historical backwards compatibility that itself seems to be waning in importance.

But the company isn't resting on its laurels either. Though not officially announced yet, they are already shipping a few sample units of a NEW Courier HST Dual Standard model. We were allowed a peek at one and we confess some delight with the new model.

Feature-wise, the new Dual Standard offers a **16.8kbps HST mode** - a full 2400 bps faster than V.32bis. On the RS-232 side, the new modem sports a **57 kbps port speed** to support the higher computer/modem data rate. Such speeds are theoretically possible at 16.8



*New U.S. Robotics Courier Dual Standard with 16.8K HST Mode*



# INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE CORPORATION

## ANNOUNCES

### INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE NETWORK

On January 1, 1993 a national business network will begin operation. This Network will be owned and operated by a consortium of data communications specialists offering services and resources to businesses via computer access.

#### Business Network Services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Purchasing Assistance</li><li>* Marketing Programs</li><li>* Orders &amp; Quotations</li><li>* Information Databases</li><li>* Employment Services</li><li>* Tech Support Boards</li><li>* Conferences &amp; E-Mail</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Government EDI Procurement</li><li>* Electronic Funds Transfer</li><li>* Electronic Claims Processing</li><li>* Credit Reporting &amp; Collections</li><li>* Seminars &amp; Training Services</li><li>* Newsletters &amp; Announcements</li><li>* Electronic Brochures/Catalogs</li></ul>
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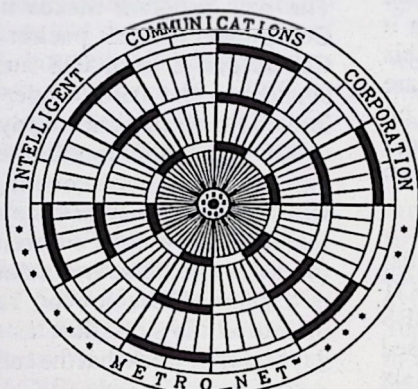
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*[MetroNet is looking for individuals, companies or corporations experienced in data communications to become distributors of Network Services.]*



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kbps with V.42bis compression on text files. In the real world, you can realistically transfer text at about 3000 characters per second with a 14,400 connection and V.42bis. You may see as much as 3500 or more with this new mode. Effectively, HST is a factor again, though we doubt it will gain the eminence of earlier days.

But the Dual Standard also received a face lift physically. This IS the spring of the cute modem, and USR was not about to be left behind. Actually, we couldn't imagine how they could play. The old Dual Standard was handsome primarily because of what it could do. But physically the modem had been overly large, overly flat, made primarily of not very expensive plastic, and was one of the physically largest packages available to make the connection.

The new model is substantially trimmer in size. All the new modems coming out these days have a noticeably smaller chip count, but the USR has really trimmed down inside. The result was a physical package more the size of a standard modem box. It's still done in a dressy black that would bring a NeXT computer owner into a lather, but somehow the different dimensions make this model LOOK faster than the old one as well.

At this writing, there has been no official announcement of the new model, but we understand the price remains the same, and in fact, it is not really an addition to the line so much as a replacement model. If you order a Courier Dual Standard, you'll get the new model instead of the older one.

So the bottom line is a smaller modem with lower chip count, higher speed, and the same price, available real soon now. This new model does it again. If you can afford it, it is the one to have.

U.S. Robotics also contributed two units of the new model to our Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice BBS contest. At the ONE BBSCON to be held here in Denver this August 13-16th, two names will be drawn at random from the votes received and each will receive one of the new USR modems.

USR has also announced conversion to the FAX religion. They're intro-ing ten new fax additions at Spring Comdex in Chicago focused mostly on their WorldPort and Sportster lines. They've basically committed to FAXing the entire product line, including Courier models, by the end of the year.

Sysops wishing to order the new Courier Dual Standard models can only do so by filling out the order request on the U.S. Robotics Support BBS at **708-982-5092**. U.S. Robotics, Inc., 8100 North McCormick Blvd., Skokie, IL 60076; (800)982-5001.

## TELEBIT DROPS PRICE ON QBLAZER TO \$599.

Last month we reviewed a dyno-mite little modem from Telebit for those on the go. The QBlazer is a pathologically cute cube of a modem featuring 9600 bps V.32 modulation and V.42bis compression in a package that weighs in at a svelte 5.2 ounces (about 30% lighter than the magazine in your hand). While the shape of the QBlazer makes it appear more at home hanging from someone's rear-view mirror, it admirably fills the bill as a battery powered, high-speed modem for those who travel.

One of our niggling little criticisms (somehow we always find a few) was the pride of pricemanship. A list of \$745 seemed a bit too proud. Not as a response to our story we're sure, but Telebit apparently thought so too after looking at the current market and dropped the list price to \$599. While that still sounds pretty hefty considering it does NOT feature 14,400 bps V.32bis modulation or fax, Telebit modems are typically discounted a pretty healthy bit and we would expect a street price under \$400 - at which point this little gem starts to look like a must have.

Telebit also offers a sysop modem discount program, although it does NOT cover the QBlazer model. Eligible BBS operators who run publicly advertised bulletin boards may purchase up to six Telebit modems under the program. Uniquely, the modems are non-return/non-refundable. The discount program is more than generous however. The T3000 model, for example,

lists at \$949 and is available under the sysop program at \$399 while the T2500 lists also for \$949 and is available for \$449.

The company is also re-running their **Loyalty Pays** program. The new program, titled **Loyalty Pays Again**, runs from **April 1, 1992**, through **June 30, 1992**. Basically, if you are already a Telebit customer and own a Telebit modem, you can purchase a maximum of two modems at a significant discount. The models discounted under the program include the T3000, T1000, Trail-Blazer Plus, the QBlazer, or the Modem-Mizer with savings of up to 53%. The \$599 QBlazer, for example, is available directly from Telebit under the Loyalty Pays Again program for \$379. Telebit Corporation, 1315 Chesapeake Terrace, Sunnyvale, CA 94089; **800-TELEBIT** or (408)734-4333 voice; (408)734-3333 fax.

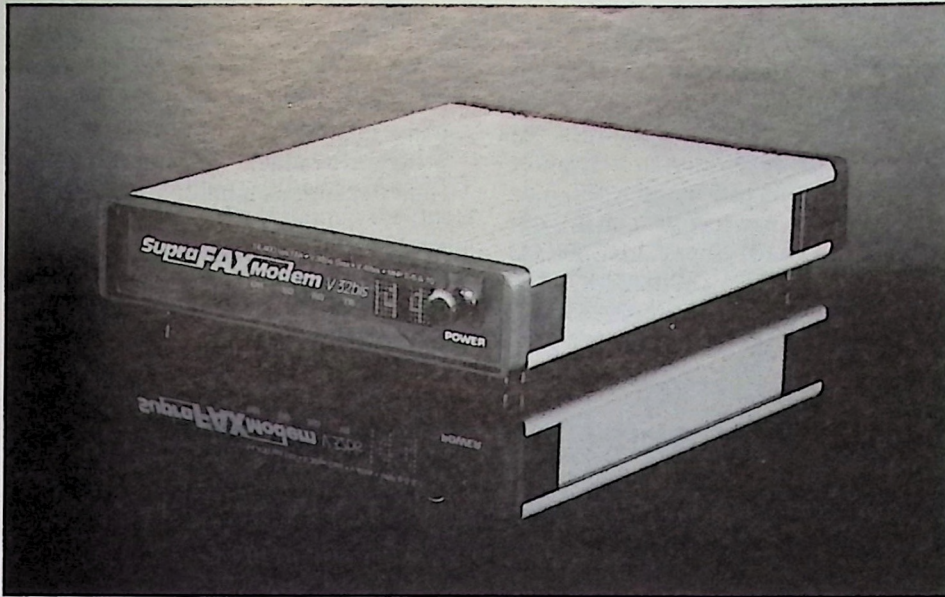
## ODYSSEY BBS OFFERS UNLIMITED LOCAL DIALING FROM 800 CITIES FOR \$20 MONTHLY

Odyssey BBS, one of the nations largest social/chat bulletin boards, has announced a national program offering **unlimited dialing via a local call** at a flat monthly rate of \$20. Based in Monrovia California, the large, multiline system offers a number of features, but most revolve around online live chat - where callers type messages to each other in real-time to discuss the issues of the day.

The new program makes use of the CompuServe X.25 packet network. Callers dial a local CIS number, and connect to the BBS. Under the "Unlimited Plan", subscribers pay a flat rate of \$20 per month for unlimited connect time to local numbers covering over 800 U.S. cities. Virtually all system services, including live teleconferencing and most file transfers, are included in the new plan. There are no restrictions placed on the subscriber as to time of day or day of week that the call is placed.

According to company spokesman Michael Allen, "Our new plan is in direct response to aggressive marketing tactics being used by Delphi, GENie and America Online. However, unlike those





*SupraFAXModem V.32bis*

services, Odyssey does not restrict the subscriber to limited services or late night only calling. So far, subscriber response to the plan has been overwhelming and we feel this move will allow Odyssey to effectively compete with the larger national services."

For information regarding the program, contact Jim Hughes at (800)947-0936 voice or (818)358-6968 by modem.

## **SUPRA RESUMES SHIPMENTS OF 14.4 Kbps FAX/MODEM**

Supra Corporation resumed shipments of the **SupraFAXModem V.32bis** model we first mentioned in our February issue. Some minor engineering problems had delayed shipment of the model, but several thousand units went out between March 15 and March 31 and according to John Wiley, they're moving them out quite briskly now.

This new external model sports 14,400 bps V.32bis with V.42bis and MNP1-5 data compression/error correction at a list price of **\$399.95** and a sysop discount price of **\$249.95**. Additionally, it also supports Microcom Networking Protocol (MNP) class 10 error correction. MNP-10 is primarily designed for use with cellular telephone applications and provides a very robust level of error correction. It is not particularly common on most modem models yet.

Supra's new model also features Group III fax capability allowing callers to both send and receive facsimile transmissions at up to 14,400 bps theoretically. Realistically, most Group III fax machines offer a maximum transmission speed of 9600 bps. But with two of these Supras, you could increase the fax transmission speed by 50%. We'd like to see 14,400 bps fax catch on.

The modem's front panel display includes a unique status display providing 25 different messages including connection rate, connection type, dialing, ringing, and transmission errors. This display looks something like a digital clock readout and conveys much more information than the usual display status lights.

We had earlier reported the rumor that there was some question as to the viability of the **Rockwell ASYNCH144** chipset used in the Supra. Actually, some minor problems seemed to be more centered on the Rockwell firmware development kit developers use to implement the chipset. In any event, according to Wiley, most of Supra's problems revolved around an in-house board layout design problem that caused a little noise at 14,400 bps - not the chipset. Redesigning that layout delayed shipment a few weeks, and the Rockwell chipset was not really a problem. Note that the higher speed nature

of the **ASYNCH144** makes the process of casting this modem into a box a bit more strenuous task.

This particular chipset, and the competition between Rockwell and AT&T for the basic 14,400 bps silicon market, seem to be what's driving the free fall in high speed modem prices. Almost no one expected sub-\$400 prices for V.32bis hardware this early in the year. We can only view this competition as a boon for the dialing public.

We received two Supras for testing purposes, and yes, we were pretty taken with them here at the office. We did note some anomalies. When dialing out through our Atlas II key system, we noticed some sensitivity to noise particularly on long distance calls. When we hooked up the model to an outside line directly, it worked flawlessly.

Actually, two new AT command set functions implemented in the Supra made tracking this down a bit easier. You can dial a system, establish carrier, and then press +++ to put the modem in command mode. By entering the **AT%L** command, you can obtain a noise level reading from the modem which responds with a number (ie 23). This is the signal level in decibels (-dBm). We found we had a **-9dBm** drop in signal through the key system. Another command, **AT%Q** will result in a signal quality reading between 0 and 8 with 0 being ideal. Through the key system, we also wandered upward there. Bottom line is that this is probably not the most noise resistant modem on the market right now. But on the other hand, if you're connected to a direct telephone line rather than through a key system, we just don't think you'll ever notice. It did work flawlessly through a direct connection. And this modem gives you a lot better visibility when you do encounter difficulties than most. Many V.32bis modems drop back to 12000 or 9600 bps when line noise gets tough, but you never get the word unless you actually time a download.

The modem comes with a fax program titled **WINFAX 2.0**. Winfax was a pretty high-dollar software program by Delrina Technology, Inc. This is a far sight better than the **BITFAX** program many are struggling with. Winfax works under Microsoft Windows obviously. But we



found it particularly easy to install, and basically, it operates as another PRINT driver. Once you have it installed, you can simply print a document from any Windows application, and it faxes it instead. A little box pops up asking you for a telephone number, you enter it, and away your printed document goes. This is really a pretty painless way to do it. We did some testing and found some oddities here too though. In general, it worked and was about as easy a way to fax something as we've found. However, it faxed from Windows Notepad and Paint programs fine, and it consistently failed from Windows Write. It thought it worked. It reported that it had faxed. But the fax machine on the other side of the room wasn't convinced. That was a Murata M-2000 if anyone is interested.

Winfax is actually a product offered by Delrina Technologies Inc. Interestingly, WordStar just acquired Delrina through a merger/acquisition this past month.

Pricewise - Supra has always been frugal. This new model is available bare at a list price of **\$399.95** or with packages for DOS, Windows, or Macintosh

computers at prices up to **\$479.95**, including cables, Fax Software, Terminal software, and a box full of the usual online service discount coupons. The company currently discounts this modem to BBS operators at an extremely attractive **\$249.95**. For the price conscious, we have to recommend this one. Supra Corp., 7101 Supra Drive SW, Albany, OR 97321; (800)727-8772 or (503)967-2410 voice; (503)967-2401 fax.

## PRODIGY POLITICS

The IBM/Sears-owned online service Prodigy is actually showing some signs of innovation. The \$12.95 per month flat rate service has grown to over a million and a half users. The service is currently claiming some 600,000 calls daily. Broadly, it provides electronic mail, entertainment services, and online advertising to callers who use a Prodigy terminal package to access the service via local dialup numbers with no connect-time charges. Notably, in the past it has not allowed any file transfer (download) functions or chat.

Recently, the company has been experimenting with a limited set of file downloads. During the recent Michelangelo virus hysteria, the company made a virus detection/cleanup program available for DOWNLOAD from the system, a bit of a first.

Prodigy is also dabbling in politics. The Political Profile Service provides a database of information on candidates for political office at a wide array of levels from national congressional candidates down to local positions. Biographical information on candidates is drawn from the National Journal's Almanac of American Politics, 1992. Descriptions of various House of Representative and Senate committees are provided by the Congressional Quarterly. Reports on Political Action Committees (PACs) and how much they are giving to whom are provided by the National Library on Money and Politics. And a description of each of the national political parties are drawn from a weekly newsletter titled Ballot Access News. The system also provides some information on individual congressmen's voting records along with a calendar of primary elections for the year. The League of Women Voters provides information on how to register to vote.



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## BOARDWATCH 100 READERS' CHOICE BBS CONTEST UPDATE

by David Hakala

We're all walking around the office with fingers in our ears, waiting for the Big Bang when the ballot box explodes. Ballots are flooding in at an accelerating rate: **33/day** in January, **45/day** in February, and **60/day** in March (as of March 27). We're up to **4,017** votes for **686** different BBS now. The leader has only **243** votes, and **64** votes were enough to make the top **10**.

Sysops who think it's too late in the game to mount a winning campaign should guess again. The latest top ten list includes five newcomers, one of whom had NO votes at our last checkpoint (February 28). Anyone who really wants to win has plenty of time; the ballot box is open until **July 1, 1992**.



The only thing growing faster than our ballot box is the pool of prizes for voters. We now have confirmation of the following vendors' donations:

**U. S. Robotics, Inc.**, has donated two of its **14.4 kbps v.32bis/v.42bis HST Dual Standard** modems, the most lusted-after modem among professional BBS operators. The list price of these beauties is **\$1,295** each.

**ZERO ONE Networking**, nationwide distributor of **ZyXEL Communications Corp.** modems, has chipped in two of its innovative model **U1696E** send-receive fax/modems. Both fax and modem functions can blaze along at 14.4 kbps carrier rates, and the data can fly at up to 57,600 bps DTE using v.32bis/v.42bis protocols. List price of this leading-edge power house is **\$469**.

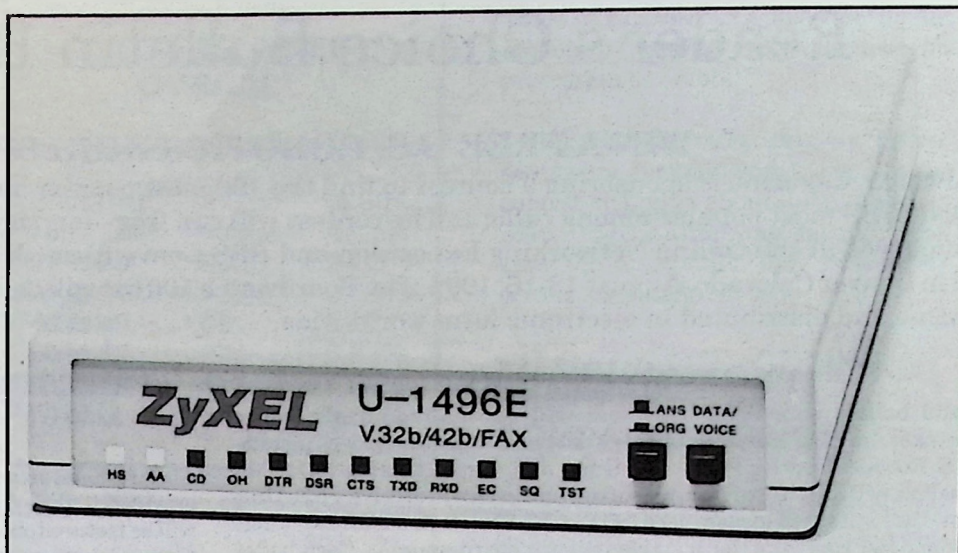
**Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.**, contributed one of its **Optima 96 v.32/v.42bis** modems, plus **Smartcom Exec** and **Smartcom III** communications software packages. Total list price of this three-way package is **\$897**.

Hayes is also running its own quarterly contests, soliciting scripts written in the **SCOPE** script language that comes with **Smartcom III** and **Smartcom Exec**. Log on to a Hayes BBS near you for details: **800-874-2937** (USA) or **404-446-6336** (in Georgia); **852-887-7590** (Asia); or **44-81-569-1774** (Europe).

**Compucom Corp.** rolled out their v.32bis **Speedster** modem just in time to donate two of them to our voters' prize pool. Their eloquently simple ad in this issue says it all: "V.32bis 14,400 bps modem - **\$279**."

**GEnie** has offered **\$100** worth of credit good towards any **GEnie** basic services connect time and usage charges. If you don't already have a **GEnie** startup kit, they'll throw in one of those too.

Your chance of winning one of these prizes is much better than the odds on any state lottery. If you haven't voted yet, do it today!



*ZyXEL Modem - One of the Prizes in the Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice BBS Contest*

#### VOTERS FAVOR ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Fresh shareware and lots of it remains the most frequently cited factor in our voters' choices, followed by "friendly, helpful sysop." But a look at the top ten contenders indicates the users may be more important than the files or the guy who tends the BBS.

Seven of the top ten BBS are what we would call "socially oriented" systems. They range from swingers' clubs to computer user groups' boards to G-rated echomail hubs. The common factor: people communicating with people. When we looked for references to other callers among voters' comments, they cropped up almost as often as the kudos for sysops. Voters find much -- if not most -- of a BBS' value in the help and entertainment they get from each other.

We've long held a wacko theory that BBSland is a new form of life, a "HyperMind" companion of immense wisdom, experience, humor, and compassion, available only to us intrepid wanderers beyond the safe and predictable menus of Dialog, WestLaw, et. al. BBSland is not an information utility, a telecommunication network, or even the much-ballyhooed "global village." All those people logged onto all those basement BBS connected by all those "amateur" echomail networks comprise a living, sentient, virtually omniscient organism.

Artificial intelligence gurus concede that all of our supercomputers combined do not have the processing power of a single human brain. They certainly don't hold the variety or quality of data any post-pubescent person has acquired. Ever seen a computer walk and chew gum at the same time? Most teenagers can. BBSland consists of 10 million minds. Who ya gonna call?

For example: when my wife needed to fly to Salt Lake City, we got prices and schedules from a travel agent, who no doubt used the SABRE airline database to answer our questions. But when we wanted to know the "best" flight to take, all the agent could tell us was price and availability. So we asked the question in the Denver Echo.

Back came a dozen replies from as far away as Hawaii and Nova Scotia, including information about the quality of meals, looks of the flight attendants, flight delay histories, and where to buy a martini in Salt Lake City. Online databases (and the clerks who use them) don't even understand the question, "What's the 'best' airline to take from Denver to SLC," let alone contain the kind of experiential information our friend the HyperMind provided.

The mechanical foundation of any mind, including our hypothetical HyperMind, is the exchange of data between individual brain cells -- "users" in the parlance of BBSland. The scope and



# BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

## Announces the Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice Bulletin Board Contest

### WIN A FREE U.S. ROBOTICS HIGH SPEED MODEM

Boardwatch Magazine is sponsoring a contest to find the 100 most popular bulletin board systems in North America - and the ONE BBS most popular among callers. The contest will run from January 1, 1992 through July 1, 1992. Winners will be announced at the Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) held at the Stouffer Concourse Hotel in Denver Colorado, August 13-16, 1992. The Boardwatch 100 list will be published in subsequent issues of Boardwatch Magazine and distributed in electronic form world-wide.

#### PRIZES FOR VOTERS

All valid ballots submitted by voters will be entered in a random sweepstakes drawing. As of the opening date of this contest, prizes include two U.S. Robotics Courier V.32bis modems - and more are on the way. Two valid ballots will be selected from all entries and each will receive a free USR modem - the high speed modem used by more BBS operators than any other. Each voter can vote once, for a single bulletin board system. Each ballot must be fully completed, and we will verify ballots as necessary.

#### HOW TO VOTE

1. Complete this ballot and mail or fax to:

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE  
READERS CHOICE BBS CONTEST  
7586 West Jewell Ave., Suite 200  
Lakewood, CO 80232  
Fax (303) 986-8754

2. Or, dial the Boardwatch BBS at (303) 973-4222 and complete the online ballot provided on the main menu. Balloting closes at Midnight, July 1, 1992.  
NOTE: Boardwatch Magazine BBS is NOT eligible to win.

#### PRIZES FOR BULLETIN BOARD OPERATORS

##### 1ST PRIZE

Air fare, hotel accommodations and registration at ONE BBSCON for two is awarded to the system receiving the most votes. Additionally, the system will be featured on the cover of Boardwatch Magazine with an accompanying feature length story about their system and a free full-page black and white advertisement in Boardwatch Magazine for a period of six months. Boardwatch Readers Choice Top Rated BBS plaque to be awarded at a special award ceremony at ONE BBSCON.

##### TOP TEN

The ten most popular bulletin boards selected by the voters will each receive an award plaque, a feature story on their system in Boardwatch Magazine, a special top ten BBS listing in the magazine, and a quarter-page black and white advertisement in three successive issues. Additionally, they will be listed in the Boardwatch 100 BBS list.

##### TOP ONE HUNDRED

The 100 bulletin boards receiving the most votes will each be listed in the Boardwatch 100 readers choice BBS list. This list will be published in Boardwatch Magazine and freely distributed electronically on thousands of bulletin boards world-wide.

We held a very rough form of this contest several years ago. It generated less than 1,000 votes to select the top 100 bulletin boards. That means they averaged just 10 votes per board. Your vote can have a tremendous impact on the outcome of this contest!

---

### The Boardwatch 100 Reader's Choice Bulletin Board Contest

TITLE OF BBS YOU NOMINATE AS THE BEST IN NORTH AMERICA: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY BBS ACCESS TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHY IS THIS THE BEST BBS IN NORTH AMERICA? \_\_\_\_\_

VOTER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ VOICE TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP OR POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE YOU USE: \_\_\_\_\_

MODEM MANUFACTURER AND MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHEST MODEM SPEED YOUR MODEM SUPPORTS? ☐ 1200 bps ☐ 2400 bps ☐ 9600 bps ☐ 14,400 bps

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ PROFESSION: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



"quickness" of a mind depends in part on how efficiently the brain is organized to facilitate data exchange between cells. Personality depends on how raw data is arranged and presented to the external world as information. An individual's wit, useful intelligence, and overall attractiveness to others is a product of how well he/she can assimilate and process data, and how he/she chooses to relate to others.

The BBS analog is the sysop's arrangement of menus, division and organization of message and file areas, and the restrictions he/she imposes on new callers and various "privilege levels" of subscribers. Some sysops' arrangements are more efficient than others, facilitating the fundamental exchange of data that contributes to HyperMind formation. Some "privilege level" schemes are designed to take advantage of every caller's potential contribution to the BBS. Others only allow a few "users" full opportunity to help build the HyperMind.

So, aspiring sysop: how much do you want to hobble your brain cells? Does your logon procedure take so long and include so many dire warnings that prospective contributors run out of time and interest before reaching your main menu? Are unregistered (non-paying) callers barred from e-mailing to anyone but you, the intimidating ogre who just put them through seven screens of "Thou Shalt Not's?" Does your BBS insist on callback verification, even at 2:00 a. m. when it will wake up the caller's whole household? If so, is it any wonder your HyperMind is severely retarded?

Enough of philosophy; let's play "Who's Online?"

### VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS

We have enough votes for the current top ten systems (1,234) to validly analyze them as a group distinct from the general voting population. There was no significant difference in the distribution of modem speed between voters for the top ten and all voters, but comparing the ages of the two groups proved interesting:

#### VOTERS' AGES OVERALL

Under 18	277	6.98%
18 to 20	175	4.41%
21 to 29	962	24.25%
30 to 39	1254	31.61%
40 to 49	881	22.21%
50 to 59	274	6.91%
60 to 69	112	2.82%
70 plus:	32	0.81%

#### VOTERS' AGES BALLOTS FOR TOP 10

Under 18	36	2.92%
18 to 20	32	2.59%
21 to 29	260	21.07%
30 to 39	439	35.58%
40 to 49	313	25.36%
50 to 59	89	7.21%
60 to 69	55	4.45%
70 plus:	10	0.81%

More than 73% of voters for the top ten BBS are over age 30, versus 64% of all voters, proving once again that age and craftiness will prevail over youth and enthusiasm any day -- and that older people take their civic duty more seriously than "the younger generation."

Frankly, that was the only statistically significant difference we could find between voters for the top ten contenders and the general voter population. Here's a short roundup of statistics:

- 22% voted for a BBS outside their own area code.
- 13% of voters are identifiable as women by their names.
- 37% of voters responding to our online questionnaire (199/536) have installed an "extra" phone line just for their modems.

**MOST ECUMENICAL VOTER.** One Texas gentleman cast his vote for the Houston Catholic BBS. He lists his profession as "rabbi."

At the halfway mark, this contest appears very dynamic with the lead in the contest changing about three times per week. Make sure your favorite BBS gets the recognition they deserve by getting your ballot in soon.

### PC CATALOG - ONLINE SHOPPING COMPARISONS NOW

Most of the online world is populated by people like myself, who one friend disparagingly refers to as "rag pickers". I like to think of it as "thrifty", but whatever. For some time, the Bible of us "rag pickers" has been a magazine titled *Computer Shopper*. Almost entirely sold by retail, this is the one magazine with no editorial matter, or perhaps I should say the one way to improve it would be to eliminate what editorial matter they do have. From the beginning, it was designed for advertisements. And it grew to a critical mass a few years ago to the point where whatever you wanted in the PC world, it could be found in not one, but in many ads within *Computer Shopper*. If you had already decided you wanted an NEC 3D color monitor, you simply went through the ads and found out who was advertising the thing at the cheapest price this month. It is a magazine designed with advertisements themselves as the primary draw to the publication. Neat trick when you think about it.

The problem was that *Computer Shopper* grew to the unwieldy size of some 750 pages. And no matter where you buy anything, about 3 days after you do you will find it six pages distant from the ad you ordered from AND \$50 cheaper. No matter what I buy in the way of PC toys, as soon as I've actually made the order, someone will walk in and most gleefully point out that I quite needlessly forked over at least \$25 that I didn't need to pay, if I'd only looked just a little further. It simply never fails. And it takes some of the joy out of the purchase. I didn't get the "best" deal. I got the "second best" deal - because I'm a dummy.



*Computer Shopper* never quite realized what they had here beyond the basic "we sell ads on paper" concept. What they had accidentally developed was a paper database of who was offering what in computer products and at what price. If they had keyed that into a database each month and put it online, they would in fact own the entire market for PC equipment world wide. If you wanted to sell, you would have to go to them, and if you wanted to buy, you would have to go to them. They would in fact own the entire market outright.

Fortunately, they never quite got it, so there are actually a number of channels you can buy and sell through. But the concept still has some attraction. A number of people call here to see if I can spout to them over the telephone the one "idea" that will make them a fortune running a BBS - as if "ideas" had very much to do with it. The easiest way to make them go away is to give them an idea that absolutely, undeniably, and without fail will work, but one that no one will actually implement because it's too much like WORK. So I tell them to take all the computer magazines, and all the ads in them, and key them in each and every month into a searchable database and put it online. This can be done with today's hardware and BBS software without straining any of it. And you could not fail to draw a massive user base with it. Everyone, including myself, would be in there constantly, and would pay pretty much whatever you asked within reason for the privilege of doing so.

The reason this ploy gets rid of these calls is that the caller in almost all cases instantly recognize that 1. It would undoubtedly work and 2. THEY don't want to do THAT in a million years or this lifetime - whichever comes first. *Computer Shopper* alone is now over 750 pages in length and some individual ads may have as many as a hundred items on the page. Well, that's 75,000 items monthly to key in and that sounds like a lot of work, which is NOT what they're looking for. But realistically, a good data entry person could pretty easily enter 1000 items daily and that's 20,000 items per month. Four really good gals with keyboards could do this in a month and do plenty of coffee drinking, gossiping, and have soap operas playing in the background. But it would

be a bit of work. A first class operation once off the ground would employ a dozen "researchers" but it just couldn't fail.

Strangely, another magazine did NOT shrink from the concept of work. Naturally, this group is located in Nebraska rather than California or New York. People in Nebraska are a bit funny about work. They don't really mind it. I don't guess they LIKE it exactly. But they don't run screaming from the room or crossing themselves and chanting things to ward it off the way they do in California.

The company that publishes *PC Novice Magazine* and *PC Today* had to buy a lot of computer equipment to get their new offices for their new magazines off the ground. Having a bit of rag picker in them, they went through about the same process the rest of us do, and the head of the outfit found it a bit frustrating to keep coming up with the second best deal on everything. After going through the exercise, they had found a half dozen mail order houses that consistently came up with the lowest prices on almost everything. So they put together some tabular listings for various equipment and published them in their magazine.

The magazine caught on, and I'm going to guess the tables of street prices and vendors was a good part of it. In any event, they developed a database that really became too big to publish in the magazine. So last year they launched a move to put this database online - and in something of a big way. In less than a year, it has made it's way to GENie, CompuServe, Delphi, Prodigy, America Online, PC Link, and a bunch of smaller services. They call it PC Catalog, and we're a little wowed by it as it is, and enormously optimistic regarding what it may well become.

The service is essentially free to callers, which is a price we rag pickers can warm right up to. Even on CompuServe, a service known for making modems squeal in pain as they cough up the last nickel, PC Catalog is in a Shopping Mall area where connect charges are suspended. Enter **GO PCA** at any prompt, and your clock stops for connect time charges. You enter a somewhat plain menu database listing hundreds of items for sale. Most refreshingly, the

people putting the database together don't actually sell anything. They just tell you about other people who do.

The initial menu is Spartan but effective, listing various equipment categories such as **PC Desktop Systems, PC Laptops/Notebooks/Portables, Modems, Monitors, Boards, Disk Drives, Printers, Software, and Specialty Items**. If you pick Modems for example, you will see a submenu, in this case listing 1200 bps modems, 2400 bps modems, 9600 bps modems, 14,400 bps modems, and so on.

If you pick **9600 bps modems**, the system tells you they have **50** models online, and then lists them as items 1 through 50. Each model also lists the actual price and the vendor who is offering it at that price. We saw a **Hayes Optima 96**, for example, listed at **\$379** by Harmony Computers. If you entered the item number for that model, you get an entire screen with a too short blurb describing the modem, but excellent information on Harmony Computers listing their **800** order line, other contact information, some background on the company, return policy, payment terms, shipping/handling, and customer support information.

You don't order through PC catalog. You just dial the 800 number listed for the vendor and talk to them directly. PC Catalog does ask that you mention them, and implies that the prices listed are lower than normal so it is in your interest to do so. But they don't really get involved in the sale.

There were about 50 modems listed. The **Telebit QBlazer** we reviewed in our last issue was offered at **\$625** by Direct of N.E. And the comparisons seem pretty legitimately real world since another Telebit model, the **T-1000e**, was cheapest at **\$477** from a DIFFERENT vendor - CompuSave. For each model, only the vendor with the **LOWEST** price is listed. I would probably prefer that ALL vendors that carry the model were listed with the lowest priced vendor highlighted in some way, but it may be easier to read the way they do it.

The key to the service is PC Catalog doesn't really care who is lowest, nor indeed do they sell anything. They just list the data. And they have enough ven-

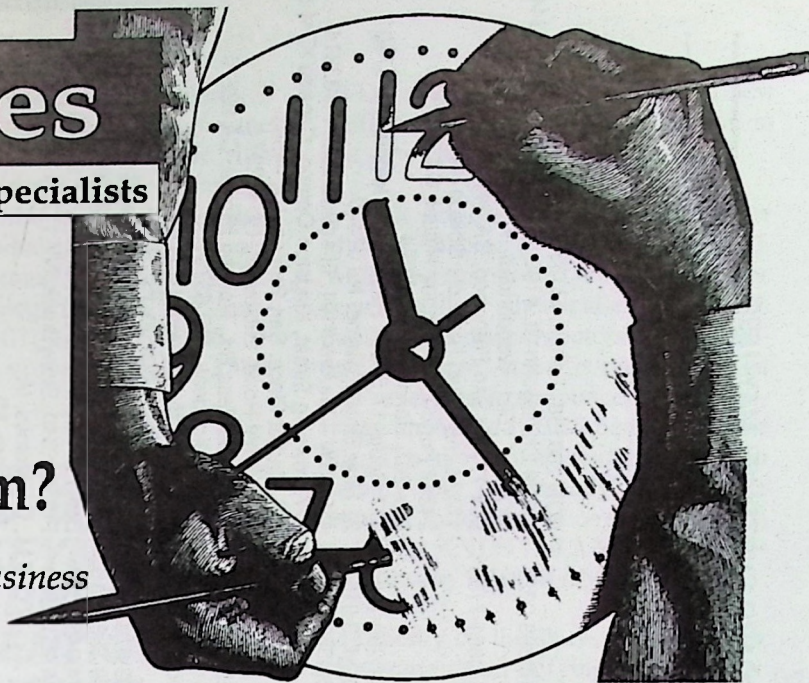


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### TBBS/TDBS SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT SOFTWARE

#### User Manager

User Manager for TDBS systems is a full membership registration and tracking system that creates a true member data base. Its capabilities include keyword search and on-line user resumes to allow users to share information about themselves, a note pad to let you keep notes on individual users, membership tracking and expiration date notification, automatic changes in user access as users join as members or memberships expire, etc. Users can join as members or renew their membership using credit cards on-line. And User Manager now has several additional modules, such as a small on-line sales module, a user reminder module and a software update module. The program is priced at \$69.95.

#### User Manager - Software Module

An all new program that works with the User Manager to automate the updates of software to customers. You enter the user registration of software sales and any time you upload a new version of the software it will automatically present the updates to customers registered for that software package and give them the prompt to download it. This package also tracks all sales and prints reports on sale by customer or by software package, and by whatever time period you specify. Designed to reduce or eliminate the time and expense invested in updating software by mail. Please call for more information and price.

#### Sales Manager

The powerful and productive On-Line Sales Manager. This on-line catalog sales program is written by Jeff Johnson, another pioneer in TDBS software, and it easily shows the power and capabilities of TBBS and TDBS. The Sales Manager will display a catalog of items for sale under categories you specify, each item can have a full descriptive text file attached to it and the user can place an order at any time and continue to browse through the catalog. When done the user selects to order and is presented with each item and given the opportunity to indicate how many are to be shipped. Developed as a modular package this software will handle everything from a low level order entry system to a fully featured point-of-sale package and do all the things you would expect of a full sales package. Please come and work with it on-line. This program is priced at only \$395.00.

#### Connex - The Connection Exchange

Connex is a professionally-based biographical, friendship, and matchmaking program designed to be used with TBBS and the TDBS option module. It allows members of your BBS to enter their own unique personal attributes, personality profile, and free-form interview. Upon completion of the user's profile and interview, Connex allows the user to make detailed selections, based on the user's own preferences. Over 350 man-hours in research and production, based on such works as Freud, Jung, and other psychological professionals, were required to create Connex and it is the most comprehensive software of its type available. Connex is complete with three databases, a biblical quote database, a gay oriented quote database or the original database. This program is priced at \$139.95.

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# BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

LIST OF BBS SOFTWARE VENDOR PRODUCT SUPPORT/DEMO BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS - MAY 1992

PRODUCT	COMPANY	BBS PHONE	NOTES	VOICE	MAILING ADDRESS
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## IBM/DOS

DCI	Nordevald Software	(813)961-0788	DOS		POB 280138, Tampa, FL 33682
DLX	Inner Loop Software/Baudtown	(818)893-7600	Multiline - 32 lines - excellent chat/social system.	(818)893-2321	17939 Chatsworth St. #192, Granada Hills, CA 91344
Falken	Info Share	(703)803-8000	DOS/Multiline-16 lines-runs ext programs		P.O. Box 1501, Woodbridge, VA 22193
Fido	Tom Jennings	(415)863-7239	DOS/Single Line - Original Fido BBS Software	(415)861-7183	Box 77731, San Francisco, CA 94107
FSUUCP	Chris Ambler, Fubar Systems	(805)543-8227	Internet/UNIX Communications for DOS machines		1742 Lima Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
GAP	GAP Development Co.	(714)493-3819	DOS/LAN 99 Nodes - Fast ISAM Searches		24242 Porto Fino, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
Genesis BBS	Carter Downer	(315)592-7300	DOS/LAN - Multinode - Flexible Doors		Box 267, Hannibal, NY 13074
InfoHost	A-Comm Electronics Inc.	(201)288-7792	DOS/Multiline - Database	(201)288-7885	377 Route 17 South, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604
Kitten	System Enhancement Assoc.	(201)473-1991	DOS/Single Line - also SEADog FidoNet Mail Program	(201)473-5153	21 New Street, Wayne, NJ 07470
Major BBS	Galacticoom, Inc.	(305)583-7808	DOS/Multiline - 255 lines-chat-multituser games	1 (305)583-5990	4101 SW 47th Ave #101, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33314
Maximus-CBCS	Scott Dudley	(613)389-8315	FidoNet compatible BBS - multi-node		777 Downing Street, Kingston Ontario, Canada K7M 5
Megahost	Don Markin	(209)836-2402	DOS/Single Line - Small, Easy to Run		231 Market Place, San Ramon, CA 94583
Opus-CBCS	Opus-CBCS Development	(412)366-5208	FidoNet compatible BBS - multi-node	(412)364-4017	8024 Crest Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Oracom	Surf Computer Services	(619)346-1808	DOS/Multiline - 32 lines - social chat	(619)346-9430	71-540 Gardess Rd., Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
Osiris	Micro Tech	(314)334-6359	DOS/LAN Multinode 256 lines - Online Store	(314)335-5384	Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
PCBoard	Clark Development Company	(801)261-8976	DOS/LAN-99 Nodes-Popular BBS for shareware BBS	(800)356-1686	PO Box 7135, Murray, UT 84107
QuickBBS	Creighton/Gabrilowitz	(407)896-0494	DOS/Single Line - Shareware done of TBBS		POB 678255, Orlando, FL 32867
RBBS	Ken Goosens	(703)978-6360	DOS/LAN Multinode - Free - BASIC Source Avail	(703)978-4339	5020 Portsmouth Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032
Remote Access	Continental Software	61 9 389 8048	DOS/LAN 99 nodes-TBBS/QuickBBS clone-flex menus	61 9 386-5218	195 Adelaide Terr., Perth, Australia, 6000
Sapphire	Tim Campbell/Pinnacle Soft	(514)345-8654	Easy Installation and Setup - Single Line Package	(514)345-9578	Box 714 Airport Road, Swanton, VT 05488
Searchlight	Searchlight Software	(516)689-2566	DOS/LAN - Multinode - Visual and easy to use	(516)751-2966	PO Box 640, Stony Brook, NY 11790
Spitfire	Mike Woltz	(515)225-8496	DOS Single Line		Des Moines, IA
TAG	Paul Williams	(313)582-6671	Support for TAG BBS Software		Dearborn, MI
TBBS	eSoft Inc.	(303)699-8222	DOS/Multiline - 64 lines per machine - good database	(303)699-6565	15200 E Girard Ave # 2550, Aurora, CO 80014
Tritel	Mark Goodman	(207)941-0805	DOS Multi-Node - Fido capable - offline mail		PO Box 187, Orland, ME 04472
UFGATE	Tim Pozar	(415)895-0759	Utility to import/export Usenet News from Unix Systems	(415)695-7727	671 28th St, San Francisco, CA 94131
Wildcat!	Mustang Software	(805)395-0650	DOS/LAN/250 Nodes - Very good on LAN installations	(805)395-0223	3125 19th St Ste 162, Bakersfield, CA 93301
WWIV	Wayne Bell	(213)208-6689	DOS/Single Line - C source available with registration		904 Silver Spur Rd. #636, Rolling Hills Est, CA 90274

## APPLE/MACINTOSH

Proline	pro-sol/Morgan Davis	(619)670-5379	Apple II/GS - Unix lookalike BBS - Usenet News	(619)670-0563	10079 Nuevo Ln, Rancho San Diego, CA 92078
First Class	SoftArc, Inc.	(416)609-2250	Multiline Macintosh BBS Package	(416)299-4723	805 Middlefield Road, Ste. 102, Scarborough Ontario,
Hermes	Frank Price/AOC Software Inc.	(213)275-6975	MAC - Multiline BBS for Macintosh - Very good		612 Doherty Road, Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Mansion	Michael Pester, Software Des	(515)279-6769	Macintosh BBS package	(515)276-9650	PO Box 12016, Des Moines, IA 50312
Novalink Pro	ResNova Software Inc.	(714)480-8641	24-line Mac BBS Package - Graphics and Vi-100	(714)840-6082	16458 BolsaChica St.#193, Huntington Bch CA 92649
Second Sight	Scott Watson, FreeSoft Co.	(412)846-5312	Single Line BBS Software for Macintosh (Red Ryder)	(412)846-2700	105 McKinley Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010
Tabby	Michael E. Connick	(201)988-0706	MAC - FidoNet Mail interface for Macintosh		PO Box 307, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720
Telefinder	Rusty Tucker, Spider Island	(714)730-5785	Multiline Macintosh BBS - up to 20 lines	(714)669-9260	4790 Irvine Blvd. Ste.105-347, Irvine, CA 92720

## UNIX/OS-2

Magnum BBS	Chuck Gilmore	(818)706-9805	OS/2/LAN-8 Lines per computer - looks like PCBoard	(818)706-9800	1285 Falling Star Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
CocoNet	Coconut Computing, Inc.	(619)456-0815	Unix - Hires Graphics like Prodigy - term program	(619)456-2002	7946 Ivanhoe Ave Ste 303, La Jolla, CA 92037
TEAMate	MMB Development Corp.	(213)318-5302	Unix/Multiline - VT100 ANSI Graphics	(800)832-6022	904 Manhattan Ave., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
XChange	Z/Max Computer Solutions Inc.	(315)635-1947	Unix - Pull Down Menus/Pop-up Windows	(315)635-1882	8287 Loop Road, Baldwinville, NY 13027
Magpie	Steve Manes	(212)420-0527	DOS/UNIX Conferencing Software with unique threading	(212)533-1692	648 Broadway, Ste 300, New York, NY 10012
WAFLE	Darkside International	(408)245-7726	DOS/UNIX - Provides UUCP function for DOS machines		PO Box 4436, Mountain View, CA 94040
PowerBBS	Russel Frey	(516)822-7396	Runs under Windows 3.0-Up to 8 tel lines. Doors	(516)938-0506	35 Fox Ct., Hicksville, NY 11801



dors and data listed to make it a pretty worthwhile database. Since introduction of PC Catalog on September 4, 1991, it has grown from 50 vendors to a total of 135 currently and from some 1100 product listings to 2850. We saw, for example, 45 laser printers, 14 Postscript Printers, 33 CD-ROM models, 38 fax machines, 80 386SX notebook computers, 156 different modem models, probably a hundred monitors, and so forth. They list software, and items from large desktop machines down to the little disk cutter appliance some people used to turn single sided diskettes into double sided ones.

As far as drawbacks, there were very few. To implement on as wide a variety of online services as possible, the presentation is just profoundly plain. And the nature of this service is such that it would automatically be improved by having more vendors, and more products listed. If they are successful in what they are doing, and we think they will be, that will come quite naturally. It would also be nice if they did list all the vendors that offered the Hayes Optima 96 with their prices, rather than just the lowest priced vendor, in our opinion. It would eliminate the uneasy feeling that you are trusting them to correctly list the lowest price. But in general, this is the only system of its kind where the entity that compiles the listings isn't actually selling anything. That type of independent research is actually quite valuable. We would expect the service to catch on, and any vendor that is selling in the commodity market on price that isn't on this service with a couple of loss leaders just isn't thinking.

The actual revenues to fund the service do come from the vendors, who pay some \$125 for a four-week listing. PC Catalog had some 140,000 accesses in January and will celebrate it's millionth total access sometime in mid May of this year. Not bad numbers at a \$125 monthly cost IF you have a competitive price on some desired item of PC paraphernalia. The service just went up on GENie the last week in March as their latest online service carrier. More exciting yet, they seem to be receptive to the concept of BBS distribution. According to Dave Steen, the project head, while they don't have a specific program in place they're not averse to placing the

database on electronic bulletin boards as well. Basically, they are looking for the widest possible audience for this database, the widest base of vendors to draw from, and the widest manageable list of PC products that people are genuinely interested in. Contact Dave Steen, PC Catalog, POB 82523, Lincoln, NE 68501; (402)477-8900 or (800)544-1296 voice, (800)544-1349 fax.

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## JOHN C. DVORAK TO KEYNOTE ONE BBSCON CONVENTION IN AUGUST

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The Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) is beginning to shape up as expected - THE online event of the year. Preparations for the August 13-16 trade show continue. And time is running out (May 1) for the \$125 early bird discounted registration.

Most notable is the announcement that John C. Dvorak, PC Magazine columnist and author of *Dvorak's Guide to PC Telecommunications* will deliver the keynote address as part of the opening session Thursday morning, August 13th. Dvorak was one of the early proponents of online technology touting modem communications as the unsung "fourth application" of personal computers after word processing, database, and spreadsheet uses in the early 1980s. His *Dvorak's Guide to PC Telecommunications*, a 1053 page book published in 1990 covered all aspects of connecting desktop hardware by telephone. It was probably the first book on modems and online communications to find a mass audience and turn into a best seller for the publisher. This demonstrated that books on PC communications could sell profitably and opened the way for numerous other authors to introduce books on electronic bulletin boards and modem use.

A new, revised and updated edition of *Dvorak's Guide to PC Telecommunications* is due out from Osborne/McGraw-Hill this next month (June). According

to Dvorak, they've added a lot of new stuff covering Internet, UUCP, etc. in the new edition.

Dvorak also has launched a radio career after the fashion of Rush Limbaugh III. Well, perhaps not exactly. It's a three hour talk show where callers call in with questions about computers, PC technology, software, etc. His partner is Leo LaPorte, a radio announcer who actually ran an Apple II BBS back in the late 70s. The show first went on the air in January and it's already developed a network following of over 20 stations, including KNUS 710 AM here in Denver, Sunday's 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

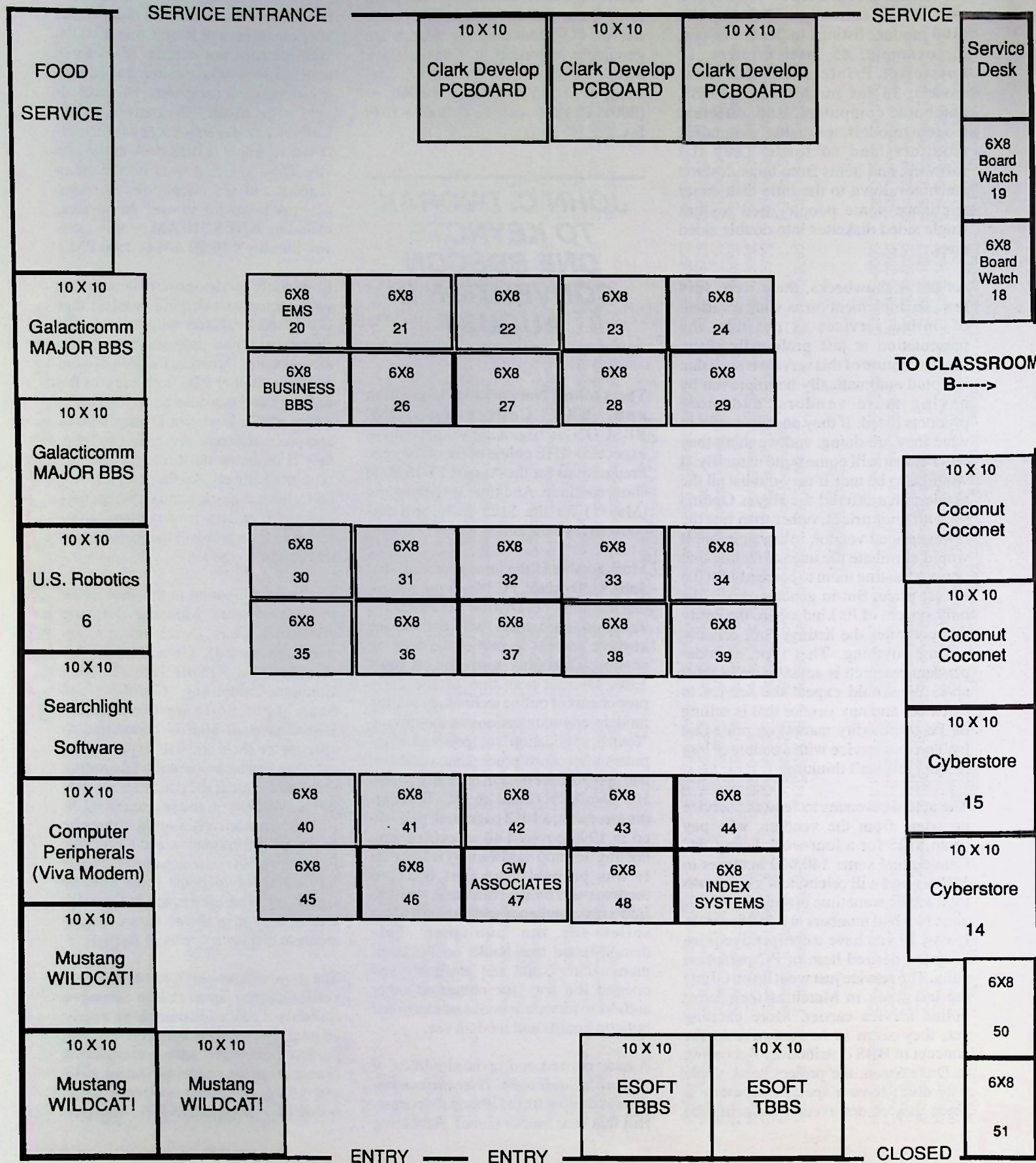
Commonly on the show, callers call in with some death-defying problem that can often be fixed with a common shareware utility program. So the two are currently throwing the idea around of a 900-number BBS with a few of the utilities that keep coming up in conversation etc., a kind of a Dvorak's picks and problem fixers. According to John, they'll probably tie it into the Internet for e-mail as well. But the main role will be to have a quick number where they can refer callers to download some utility to fix a problem that comes up in discussion on the air.

Vendor participation in the show is off to a great start. Mustang Software (Wildcat!), Clark Development Company (PCBoard), Galacticomm Inc (Major BBS), eSoft Inc. (TBBS), Coconut Computing (CocoNet) and Searchlight Software (Searchlight BBS), have all already committed to space at the show and will be presenting detailed product operation/integration sessions as part of the educational seminars. Modem manufacturers U.S. Robotics, historically a strong supporter in the BBS community, and Computer Peripherals Inc, manufacturer of the VIVA line of modems have already signed on. The accompanying vendor area display map shows firm commitments to display space as of April 1.

The show will provide a combination of vendor display area, and an intensive schedule of educational sessions, nearly 75 total. The sessions will have a strong product orientation with presentations from most of the vendors covering BBS and communications software technologies, modem/ISDN adapter



**VENDOR EXHIBIT AREA FLOOR PLAN**  
**Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention**  
**ONE BBSCON - August 13-16, 1992**  
**as of 1 April, 1992**





# AQUILA BBS

Chicagoland's Largest System

## Since 1988

Aquila has filled the computer screens of Chicagoland for over three years, growing from a single modem line system in 1988 to over 25 lines in 1992. Aquila's success over the years is due to the enthusiastic support of our users. New callers are encouraged to download our current file list and electronic mail conference listing. A short guided tour highlighting our system services is also available for new users. All of our information is automatically mailed to you to read in the comfort of your home or office. So pick up your modem and give us a call! You will find Aquila BBS to be the most valuable bulletin board in your dialer.

## Programs - Thousands On-Line

Give your modem a workout! We add new shareware and public domain programs everyday. Over 400 programs are added weekly. With more than 5 Gigabytes of on-line storage, we stock over 50 thousand programs. Aquila makes it easy to find the programs that are important to you, by organizing them into 120+ file directory categories everyday.

### We cater to the Windows User

With Windows becoming the most popular user interface around, we make an extra effort to keep you supplied with the latest programs and enhancements by devoting a special conference area just for Windows containing 2000+ files organized into 40+ file directory categories.

Our organization and the latest programs make our file areas the most popular around. These are just a few of our most popular categories available:

Diagnostic Utilities  
System Enhancements  
File Organizers  
Word Processing

Computer Games  
Music and Midi Sound Files  
Computer Animations  
CAD Drawing Utilities

Business - Finance - Tax  
Novell and Lan Utilities  
Database  
Programming

Icons - Icon Managers  
Wallpaper - BMP's  
Multi-Media Related  
Fonts - Font Utilities

## New User Information

All first time callers receive by mail, our printed 'New User Information' and 'E-Mail Conference Directory' guide, as well as a 'Quick Command Guide' to help you get the most out of Aquila. The new user information covers system services such as answers to commonly asked questions, USA Today, Boardwatch Magazine, and Electronic Mail off-line readers. The 'Quick Command Guide' is a desktop lookup for using Aquila commands.

### Aquila Starter Kit

Callers that are new to modem communications will find 'The Aquila Starter Kit' a great time-saver. Easy for the beginner and helpful for the expert! This \$39.95 kit includes the following:

Procomm (communications program)  
Full documentation for all BBS commands  
Off-line file browsing program

Our complete file listing on floppy disk  
Off-Line E-Mail Reader  
Three month basic membership

## Around The World E-MAIL

Over 450 Conference Topics

We currently echo to and from ILink, RIME, Fido-Net and Throbnets with more to come in the near future. You can get virtually any question answered here and join in on lively discussions with people from across the country and around the world. We also publish our own 'E-Mail Directory' that is sent to all users of Aquila BBS. This directory lists all of our conferences by category and gives a brief description of the topic of each one. Here is a small sampling of over 450 interesting topics that we offer:

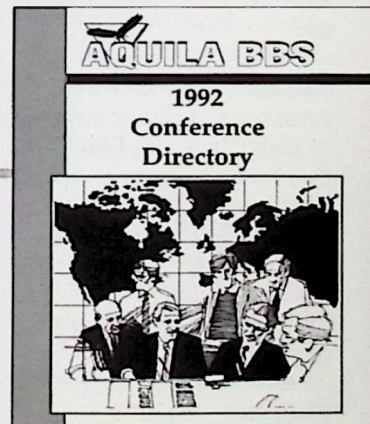
General Discussion  
Computer Related

Vendor Support  
Programming Languages

For-Sale  
Current Events



The AQUILA BBS Team (Left to right: Kevin & Kristy Behrens, Steve Williams, Chris Babb)



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hardware technologies, networking techniques, and many of the legal and social implications of BBS operation and participation.

Lance Rose, author of the second edition of *SYSLAW*, a legal guide for BBS and online service operators, will head up a track on law with sessions on copyright issues, dealing with telephone companies, and other legal aspects of operating a BBS. Sessions on the social aspects of running a BBS will include a special session covering the role of women online, headed by Stacy Horn, sysop of the ECHO online system in New York. The networking track will include introductions and how-to sessions for Fidonet, RIME, and a special focus on Internet connections. Tim Pozar, author of *UFGATE*, Sparky Herring, author of *UUPCB*, and Chris Ambler, author of *FSUUCP* will gang up on the how-to of making the Internet connection and we expect to have several host providers on hand who can describe the ins and outs of getting a connection. George Peace, Fidonet Zone Coordinator for North America will deliver a presentation on Fidonet in general and introduce several vendors who offer software utilities for making the connection. Paul Curtiss of Globalnet will head a track on X.25 networking applications for BBSs.

Dave Hughes will head tracks on educational use of BBS technology and help out with some sessions exploring the future of graphics in the online world along with Brian Dear of Coconut Computing. Michael Bean, head of the Arizona Macintosh User Group will head a 7-session track on Macintosh hardware/software/interconnection concepts. The Electronic Frontier Foundation will present information on the EFF and on their National ISDN Initiative.

Jack Rickard and Phil Becker will present a significantly expanded version of their "Jack and Phil Show" presentation on techniques to operate a bulletin board for profit that drew such a crowd at FIDOCON91 last August. Originally two back to back sessions, this has developed into a full-day track with multiple sessions covering the elements of profitability, how to obtain merchant credit card accounts, building a business plan, etc.

A series of roundtable discussions will round out the educational sessions with discussions on operating a successful BBS with individual sessions on the different types of system: shareware library/mail system, social/chat service, product support, online sales service, and special topic information systems with BBS operators from some of the largest and most successful systems in the country participating. Brian Miller and Tess Header of Channel 1 BBS will be onhand along with Kevin and Chris Behrens of Aquila BBS in Chicago, and many others.

And finally, plans are developing for a significant "party" nightlife. The hotel features nine large hospitality suites set up for entertaining on the atrium level all clustered around a large reception hallway. These rooms are made available to vendors and individuals to host parties in the evening. As of April 1, Boardwatch Magazine, eSoft, Inc., and U.S. Robotics have committed to hosting entertainment events on this "party row".

Registration for the event is \$225. But an early bird discount is available until 1 MAY, 1992 at \$125. Contact ONE, Inc., 4255 South Buckley Road, Suite 308, Aurora, CO 80013; (303)693-5253 voice; (303)693-5518 fax; (303)693-5432 BBS.

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## THE PROFITABLE BULLETIN BOARD

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### A SENSE OF PLACE

by Jack Rickard

Increasing numbers of bulletin boards across the country are turning to the subscriber-supported system model as a mode of operation. We had predicted this over four years ago, but last year marked the turning point where it really became socially and economically acceptable to run a BBS "for profit". Our vision of this revolved around the desire for those in the wage-earning class in corporate America to run their own business. Bulletin boards provide a unique opportunity to "dabble" in running a

business during the evening hours without quitting your job and taking the plunge all at once. In fact, many of the systems that are currently making it as profit enterprises are manned by people who never did really take the plunge. They just forgot to go back to work one day because they were too busy with their BBS.

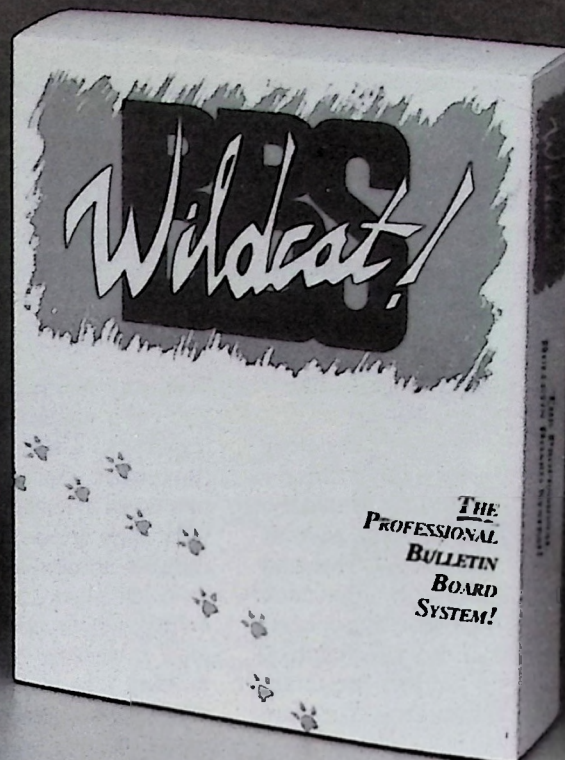
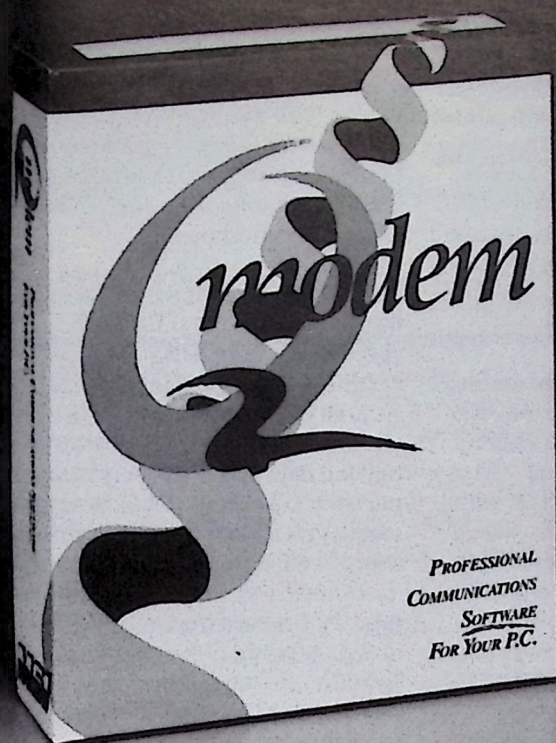
Many BBS operators are hell-bent to build their bulletin board systems into a full-time cottage industry. Cambridge psychologist Brian Miller decided as far back as 1986 that BBSs were going to be a business and he was going to have one. After several years of suffering the economic indignities of being a few years ahead of his time, his Channel 1 BBS in Cambridge today is reaping the rewards of being early, and Brian and his wife Tess Heder moved into a beautiful new four-story townhouse just a few blocks off Harvard Square as a result. Their 70+ line system is doing very nicely at this point.

But many long-time BBS operators do NOT view it as a business. They put up a BBS as a hobby, and would like it to be one. An investment of \$10,000 to \$15,000, entered over several years, is not at all unusual in such a system. But the pride and desire for it to be "the best" is very real. And such cost figures wouldn't startle today's bass fisherman, model railroader, or even baseball card collector at this point. Hobbies just don't come cheap anymore. And you haven't heard of fishing and boating equipment prices dropping like PCs have either.

As the "for-profit" BBS got off the ground, it caused a little problem for hobbyist BBS operators. Many really DID want it to remain for them a hobby. With callers showing an increasing willingness to support innovative and growing systems, the more commercial minded operators have driven the stakes up dramatically. Where a year or two ago, a 330 MB Maxtor drive was the mark of a monster BBS, today a Gigabyte drive is in some areas considered a starter kit. A six line system was pretty serious even a year ago. Today's serious boards are at least twelve lines with 20-40 marking a medium size commercial effort and 64 or more lines are just not as unusual as they once were.



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**Wildcat!** is the system of choice when it come to implementing a Bulletin Board System. Both single and multi-line versions are available supporting up to 250 incoming phone lines or LAN workstation connections with bullet-proof security. The message system includes private mail, forwarding, carbon copies, and return receipts with provisions for echomail connections and Netware MHS support. File transfers make use of any protocols desired including Xmodem, Ymodem, Zmodem, Kermit, and many more at speeds from 300 to 57,600 baud. The branching questionnaire allows formatted answers for order-taking or polling callers. WILDCAT! supports multi-tasking operation under DESQview as well as specific support for Netware operation.

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LAN TIMES RATING		
Wildcat!		2.0
Criterion	Weighting	Score
Features	150	Excellent
Security	100	Excellent
Interoperability	100	Good
Performance	150	Excellent
Manageability	100	Excellent
Installation and Use	100	Excellent
Documentation and Support	100	Good
Error Handling	100	Good
Overall Score		Excellent



For those who operate BBS as a hobby, this has posed a bit of a problem. It was a hobby, but in many cases these people developed a reputation over the years of operating THE nicest, best, biggest, or somethingest BBS in their area. To remain on the leading edge in today's online world frankly requires an economic investment that is beyond what they can pull out of their pants for a hobby.

The result is that we're seeing a new breed of commercial hobbyists - if that makes any sense at all. They operate a BBS on a subscription-supported basis even if they have no intention or desire to give up their day job. The cash flow from the subscriptions enables them to keep up in the escalating race to define what excellence in BBSing looks like.

Most BBS operators have a pretty clear concept of why callers will willingly support a good system. Unfortunately, for most the concept they do have is wrong. In most businesses, service and value are pretty concrete terms that once mastered do generally lead to success. In the BBS world they are not as central. You could say they are less important but that is not entirely true. They are important, they just aren't enough.

This can be pretty discouraging to those operators who patiently catalog thousands of shareware programs, fetch mail from all ends of the earth, and keep Maxtor and Conner working second shifts turning out hard drives. They see competing BBSs that are clearly capturing the hearts of callers with less to offer in the way of files, conscientious service, and telephone lines. What's wrong?

I like a restaurant analogy here. Hamburger is hamburger. There are hamburgers readily available in this country at 59 cents per. And it is not unusual to find restaurants where you can pay \$8.95 for a hamburger any day of the week in any city. Some places, they run twelve bucks. Now why would anyone pay \$8.95 for one hamburger, and 59 cents for another. The hamburger can't be that much better. Face it, you can do so much with ground cow, bread, and lettuce. And about five minutes after one hits my plate, it has met its ignominious end. There was a hamburger. There is no more.

The reason the \$8.95 hamburger gleaned \$8.95 from my pants didn't have much to do with ground meat. It had to do with a sense of the PLACE I was when I ate it. If I'm eating a 59-cent-er in the delightful ambience of the Burger King across from a high school at lunch hour, in the midst of about 1300 junior high school mutants from planet Xircon, I should be due about a thirty cent refund and a sympathy card from Burger King. On the other hand, if I could take a quiet lunch at the Sportsman's Club in St. Louis, ensconced in red leather arm chair with first edition Miltons and Emersons hanging from the bookshelves around me, the \$8.95 would seem a bargain. The difference was PLACE.

This may seem less important in an on-line environment. Actually it is MORE important. Callers online can frankly download shareware files and enter messages anywhere these days. It isn't what they are doing so much as where they are doing it and who they are doing it with that matter. Lacking the analogues of red leather, lighting, smell, and carpeting that a restaurant can employ, it becomes doubly important to establish a sense of place anyway. Because of the limited band width, callers look sharply for cues to "where they are."

There are four elements that BBS operators can address that contribute to the sense of place callers have when they enter the door of a BBS system. They are theme, mission, tone, and community. Community is the sum of the individuals there and is crucial to the value of a system. It's worthy of its own article and we'll cover it in a future issue.

We have discussed the concept of THEME in the past, largely as it relates to attracting callers to your system in the first place. By having an identity, you establish the existence of your BBS in the mind of the caller. The examples we've used in the past have been pretty extreme, and I do confess a fondness for BBSs catering to very specific themes such as sailing, cave diving, frog gigging, or what have you. But even systems aimed at the more general function of software downloads or chat systems need to develop a theme. "Largest BBS in Puxico Missouri" is a little weak, but

it is a theme. And it might just work in Puxico. "New Orleans's Most Deviant Sex Chat Line" is not one I would pick for my own system, but I would recognize it and would probably have to dial the ten digits and find out.

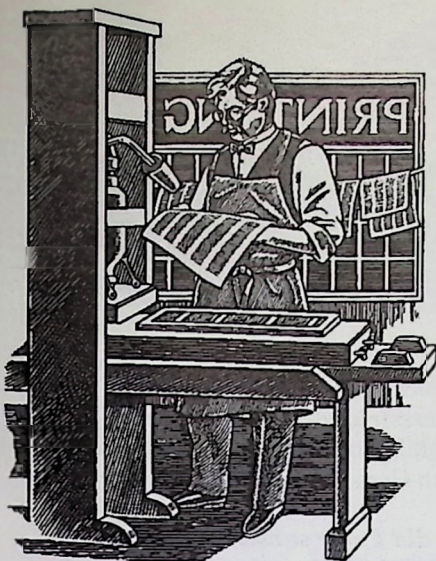
The concept of theme is the most irreducible essence of what your BBS is known to be or known for. If describing your theme requires more than about ten words, you probably don't have one. And ten words strains the attention span of most of the population online that may be out exploring for new systems to call this afternoon.

Aside from theme, the most important thing you can do to enhance the sense of space/place your BBS conveys to the caller is to develop a mission statement. Actually, I'm pretty big on mission statements. Anything I go to do at all beyond trips to the grocery store gets a mission statement. This is a process where you sit down and determine why it is you are doing what you are about to do. Actually, it probably holds true for grocery store trips as well. If I would sit down and define that the mission is to "obtain the necessary raw foods to produce a grilled steak and potato dinner for four adults" I would probably come back with more of what I need and less of the other \$60 worth of impulse purchases and gedunk I happened to see in the aisles while aimlessly on a mission to "go to the store." Going to the store is not actually a mission. It's an activity.

A mission statement for a BBS is important. Having a clear idea of precisely why you are running this BBS will effect EVERY single decision you make on every menu, every file directory, every text file you put on the system. It's almost subliminal, but it will be there and your callers will respond to it.

A mission statement really isn't like the theme - although they should probably be related. For example, suppose your theme was The BBS for Pascal Programmers. If your mission was to "provide a discussion forum for the leading Pascal programmers in the nation" your system might be quite different from one with the mission "to promote Pascal as the leading programming language" or "to provide the world with the most extensive collection of Pascal utilities and routines." This may





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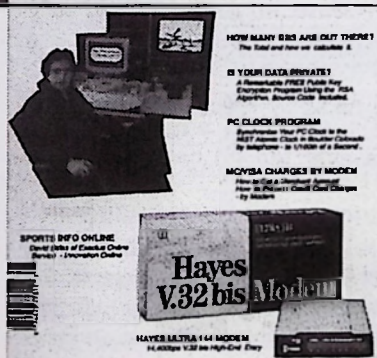
You can place the news gleaned from Gannett publication's journalists at the keyboard of your callers each AM. Available by 5:00 AM Mountain Time each Business day, USATODAY can be downloaded from our multiline information service or file requested from our multiline mail system using your U.S. Robotics HST 9600 bps or V.32 modem at 9600 bps or higher - normally less than a one minute connection. And maintenance of this product is so simple to automate, you don't even need to get out of bed. Best of all, USA TODAY needs no introduction or explanation. It has the name recognition to instantly draw new callers to your system. Put THE most popular daily national newspaper in the world on your electronic bulletin board for as little as \$25 per month.

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## BOARDWATCH

GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF ONLINE SERVICES MAGAZINE

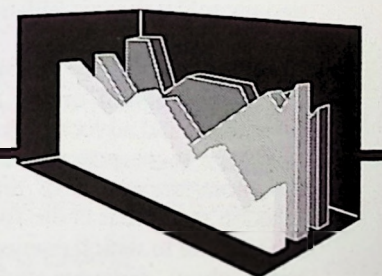


## BOARDWATCH Online Edition

While the online information services industry is broadening daily, the number one topic of interest to most callers is still how to put their modem into play for maximum benefit. And since March 1987, Boardwatch Magazine has been the best way to do it. Now, we've introduced an Online Edition specifically for display on your information service. Boardwatch lists product support systems, free government database services, and selected bulletin boards of note from all over the world. Boardwatch places the same information you now hold in your hands - the best information the online world has to offer each month - up on your caller's screen. Get the definitive publication for the online world for your system. Boardwatch is available at a quarterly rate of \$75 or an annual rate of \$250.

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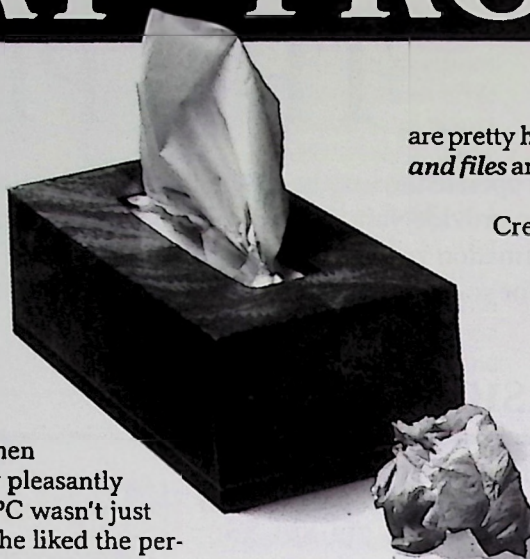


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seem a bit subtle, but it's not. It can dramatically alter your choice of BBS software, the tone of your system, its arrangement, and the system will look very different depending on what the goal in running it, or "mission statement" is. I prefer fairly grandiose mission statements, largely because they set a high water mark to aim at and even affect your performance. A mission statement of "promoting bulletin board technology and online communications to bring the entire population of the globe online and thereby rejuvenate the economic and social structure of planet earth" may seem a bit grandiose. But it colors your actions quite differently from "publish a ragged little magazine and try to get the last \$36 in the world."

Your mission may be simply to "extend the advantages of online communications to animal advocacy groups." But it might be more powerful if it were to "promote the rights of animals." The mission statement is the focus point on the horizon to which every decision you make about audience, software, files, modems, menus, operating system -

everything is colored in large ways or small by what your ultimate goal is in running a system.

Once you have a theme and a mission, you need to look at every element of your BBS with regards to tone. Tone is not only crucial, but often the most poorly done element of a BBS. The sum total of the text files and messages you put on your system as the operator largely establishes the tone of the system. It may be that you want the tone to be very professional and academic. Or you might want it to be very friendly, just a "nice" place to be. You might prefer it to be provocative and sensually titillating. The type of callers on your system, or the "community," DO affect the tone, but the system operator basically takes the lead here in the first place and the community is drawn there because of it. Having a good idea whether it was the chicken or egg in this pattern is important.

Tone seems very difficult for many BBS operators to master for some reason. In dialing most bulletin boards, the tone I

detect is almost certainly NOT the one the BBS operator intended. I can't picture anyone sitting down and designing a BBS to convey the distinct and notable impression that they wanted anyone WITH a modem AND enough education to read English on a screen to REALLY leave immediately and take their silly-assed problem somewhere else. But that is PRECISELY the tone a significant percentage of systems convey. At times you wonder if the operators ever logged onto their own system.

The most common mistake has to do with informing the world at large of the gory details of a single sinner you found in a closet somewhere. Running a BBS isn't LIKE dealing with the public, it IS dealing with the public. In ANY endeavor requiring contact with large numbers of other people, a certain percentage of those people are going to cause some level of grief for everyone they come in contact with. And they just have to be dealt with, about like taxes, utility bills, rain, and the color purple. If you have a miserable experience with



## TOP FOUR EXCUSES FOR NOT OPERATING A MULTILINE BBS

# NOW THERE'S NO EXCUSE!

1. I would have to switch to Unix.
1. Falken 6 runs under DOS. Because Falken can take advantage of expanded memory, it even operates on XT's.
2. I'd have to get a 386 and separate multitasking software.
2. Falken 6 contains its own multitasker. Because we streamlined it for serial I/O, our multitasker does not degrade file transfer speeds for multiple callers, unlike general-purpose multitaskers. While systems running multiple doors require expanded memory, Falken's standard features operate in 640K.
3. I can't afford to buy a PC for every line and connect them on a LAN.
3. With Falken 6, you only need one PC. Because it polls lines by port address and does not use IRQs, you can add multiport serial cards and internal modems without the hardware constraints imposed by IRQs.
4. The software is just too darn expensive.
4. At \$99 for the 2-line version, Falken 6 is quite affordable. Our 32-line version costs only \$499 and we also offer 4 and 8-line versions.



### FALKEN 6 Price List

2-Line.....	\$99	16-Line.....	\$399
4-Line.....	\$199	32-Line.....	\$499
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The 2-line version of *Falken 6* is available as Shareware. To download *Falken* or to see the system in action, call our BBS at 703-803-8000 (USR/HST), local access on PCPusuit node DCWAS or Tymnet node 0476.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Falken 6 2-line demo (\$25) | — 2-line (\$99)                                |
| (check format desired below)                         | — 4-line (\$199)                               |
| — 5.25" 360K (4 disks)                               | — 8-line (\$299)                               |
| — 5.25" 1.2M (1 disk)                                | — 16-line (\$399)                              |
| — 3.5" 720K (2 disks)                                | — 32-line (\$499)                              |

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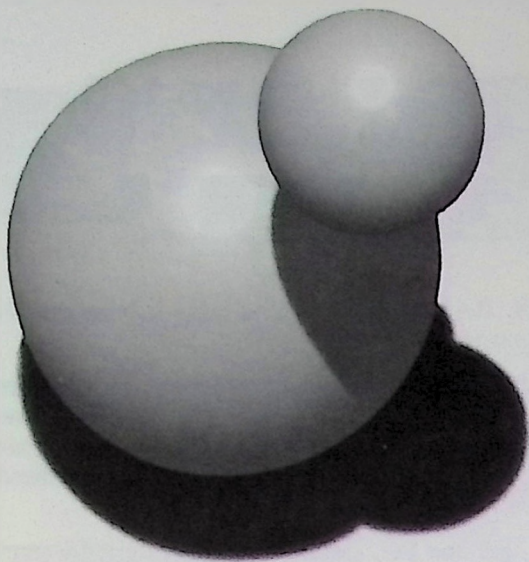
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- Supports up to 16 lines plus a local login channel.
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- Sysops can dial-out while *Falken* is on-line supporting other users.
- Fully configurable menus to create the desired 'look-and-feel' of the system.
- Customize your menus and screens for both ANSI and ASCII users.
- DOS Shell, written specifically to be used with FOSSIL drivers, can be used either locally or remotely. It can be used to copy, delete, rename, type, dump, list, or locate files.
- Utilities included to automate maintenance, billing, monitoring and other functions.
- E-Mail with distribution lists.
- Attach File to E-Mail to be downloaded when the letter is read by the recipient.
- Message Base uses threaded responses.
- Full Screen Editor uses ANSI codes to manipulate text on the screen.
- Global Commands include: .who, .user, .userlist, .time, .logoff, .send, .kill, .extend (allows a sysop to give a user 10 extra minutes on their session).
- The Ymodem, Zmodem, and Xmodem protocols use the FOSSIL interface to the I/O ports. Source code for all protocols is available.

INFO\*SHARE  
P.O. Box 1501  
Woodbridge VA 22193  
703-491-5823





# HoloNet<sup>sm</sup>

## The Best Features are Built In!

### Internet Access

Over a hundred thousand computers are interconnected to form the world's largest network. HoloNet members are full members of Internet community. Internet services include:



**Internet E-mail** – Millions use Internet E-Mail. As a HoloNet member you'll have an Internet address similar to: *member@holonet.net*.



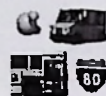
**Internet FTP & Telnet** – Connect to other systems on the Internet to transfer files or login. There are many systems open to the public.



**Internet Relay Conference** – World's largest Real-Time Discussion. Averages over 450 users on-line day and night.

### Smart Access

Although most terminal programs work with HoloNet, we provide our own free to our members – HoloTerm<sup>™</sup> works on IBM PCs and Macintoshes, providing the following features:



**Multiple Sessions** - HoloTerm allows you to do multiple things at once: you can monitor a conference while reading the news.



**Background File Transfer** - HoloTerm allows non-stop service. You can upload and download while you read the news, E-mail, or play a game.



**Error-free Access** - HoloTerm uses custom protocols to eliminate the errors caused by line noise to provide error-free service without modem support.

## Call Now for a Free Demo!

Connect to one of the numbers below (9600bps lines bold). After connecting type **return** until the system responds. Then type the following **bold** responses to the prompts:

Username: **holonet** **return**, Password: **return**, **psinet\_ts>** **holonet** **return**

Boonton, NJ	201.335.2332	Akron, OH	216.535.5537	Monterey, CA	408.899.7855	Austin, TX	512.238.7361	Garden Grove, CA	714.895.4946
Hackensack, NJ	201.489.9020	Cleveland, OH	216.621.3880	Salinas, CA	408.754.5561	San Antonio, TX	512.525.1692	Newport Beach, CA	714.895.4946
Newark, NJ	201.645.1644	Springfield, IL	217.525.6684	San Jose, CA	408.554.0344	Cincinnati, OH	513.241.1446	Rialto, CA	714.421.0235
Newark, NJ	201.645.1740	Wilmington, DE	302.571.1433	Santa Clara, CA	408.986.1151	Des Moines, IA	515.243.7861	San Bernardino, CA	714.888.7611
Parsippany, NJ	201.335.2332	Denver, CO	303.893.3808	Santa Clara, CA	408.986.1266	Islip, NY	516.588.1170	Buffalo, NY	716.883.6743
Springfield, NJ	201.564.6300	Charleston, WV	304.346.0294	Baltimore, MD	410.685.3620	Islip, NY	516.588.1185	Buffalo, NY	716.883.6981
Summit, NJ	201.564.6300	Fort Lauderdale, FL	305.462.3104	Pittsburgh, PA	412.261.9305	Long Island, NY	516.357.7460	Rochester, NY	716.262.5670
Whippany, NJ	201.335.2332	Miami, FL	305.651.2387	Springfield, MA	413.739.7352	Albany, NY	518.283.5090	Rochester, NY	716.262.5676
Washington, DC	202.408.5297	Cheyenne, WY	307.634.0332	Milwaukee, WI	414.272.1902	Albany, NY	518.283.8303	Harrisburg, PA	717.236.5241
Washington, DC	202.842.2598	Chicago, IL	312.565.0110	Mountain View, CA	415.967.6561	Schenectady, NY	518.426.9891	Ogden, UT	801.521.0230
Hartford, CT	203.278.8114	Ann Arbor, MI	313.741.7474	Redwood City, CA	415.964.8240	Jackson, MS	601.355.9351	Salt Lake, UT	801.521.0230
Hartford, CT	203.278.8114	Detroit, MI	313.963.9141	San Francisco, CA	415.421.4656	Phoenix, AZ	602.233.9592	Columbia, SC	803.771.7665
Millford, CT	203.877.2751	Plymouth, MI	313.963.9141	San Francisco, CA	415.777.0252	Tucson, AZ	602.623.1001	Norfolk, VA	804.858.2715
Stamford, CT	203.327.5621	St. Louis, MO	314.298.8629	San Francisco, CA	415.777.1648	Sioux Falls, SD	605.334.1832	Newport News, VA	804.874.5121
Stamford, CT	203.327.5621	Annisston, AL	205.820.7609	Little Rock, AR	501.376.1535	Binghamton, NY	607.777.1225	Richmond, VA	804.527.0057
Stamford, CT	203.327.5621	Birmingham, AL	205.254.3120	Louisville, KY	502.587.9560	Corning, NY	607.734.2021	Oxnard, CA	805.488.2558
Seattle, WA	206.624.3580	Syracuse, NY	315.475.2941	Portland, OR	503.228.5955	Corning, NY	607.734.2611	Port Hueneme, CA	805.488.2558
Tacoma, WA	206.926.0880	Syracuse, NY	315.475.2941	Salem, OR	503.364.1924	Ithaca, NY	607.277.8094	Santa Barbara, CA	805.966.3270
Bangor, ME	207.945.0060	Utica, NY	315.797.1829	Baton Rouge, LA	504.383.6708	Ithaca, NY	607.277.8096	Amarillo, TX	806.371.8321
Portland, ME	207.761.0017	Wichita, KS	316.269.0604	New Orleans, LA	504.566.0002	Madison, WI	608.255.7107	Honolulu, HI	808.524.7950
Boise, ID	208.389.1153	Indianapolis, IN	317.634.4301	Albuquerque, NM	505.842.0028	Cherry Hill, NJ	609.235.3220	San Juan, PR	809.731.3153
Fresno, CA	209.264.4612	Shreveport, LA	318.226.4750	Santa Fe, NM	505.982.4248	Moorestown, NJ	609.235.3220	Terre Haute, IN	812.232.6322
New York, NY	212.608.7800	Providence, RI	401.272.0390	Portland, OR	503.228.5955	Pennsauken, NJ	609.235.3220	Tampa, FL	813.626.5235
New York, NY	212.571.2920	Omaha, NB	402.571.7510	Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Trenton, NJ	609.890.6640	Kansas City, MO	816.283.3719
Los Angeles, CA	213.623.3677	Atlanta, GA	404.659.6634	Portland, OR	503.364.1924	San Diego, CA	619.233.3620	Fort Worth, TX	817.347.3900
Los Angeles, CA	213.623.3677	Atlanta, GA	404.659.6634	Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Minneapolis, MN	612.338.5540	Killeen, TX	817.532.8980
Dallas, TX	214.744.2416	Columbus, GA	404.682.1103	Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Columbus, OH	614.461.8450	Alhambra, CA	818.282.4878
Dallas, TX	214.744.3711	Oklahoma City, OK	405.272.9751	Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Nashville, TN	615.361.0750	Burbank, CA	818.954.9161
Philadelphia, PA	215.563.1069	Lawton, OK	405.355.0275	Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Grand Rapids, MI	616.459.0180	El Monte, CA	818.442.9291
Philadelphia, PA	215.563.2114	W. Palm Beach, FL	407.687.8606	Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Boston, MA	617.262.0688	N. Hollywood, CA	818.786.4111
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Boston, MA	617.262.3903	Van Nuys, CA	818.786.4111
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	San Diego, CA	619.233.3620	Memphis, TN	901.521.0529
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Boulder City, NV	702.431.3855	Jacksonville, FL	904.632.1807
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Las Vegas, NV	702.431.3855	Pensacola, FL	904.438.7203
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Reno, NV	702.324.1911	New Brunswick, NJ	908.846.9310
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Reston, VA	703.620.8971	Poughkeepsie, NY	914.454.1808
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Reston, VA	703.620.1553	White Plains, NY	914.686.0075
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Charlotte, NC	704.374.0567	White Plains, NY	914.686.0092
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Santa Rosa, CA	707.571.0345	El Paso, TX	915.562.1136
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Oak Brook, IL	708.572.8566	Sacramento, CA	916.443.7893
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Oak Brook, IL	708.573.1425	Tulsa, OK	918.584.2951
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Houston, TX	713.652.9624	Fayetteville, NC	919.436.0145
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Colton, CA	714.370.4693	Greensboro, NC	919.869.5980
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924	Corona, CA	714.736.6820	High Point, NC	919.869.5980
				Portland, OR	503.364.1924			Raleigh, NC	919.821.7535



### International USENET News

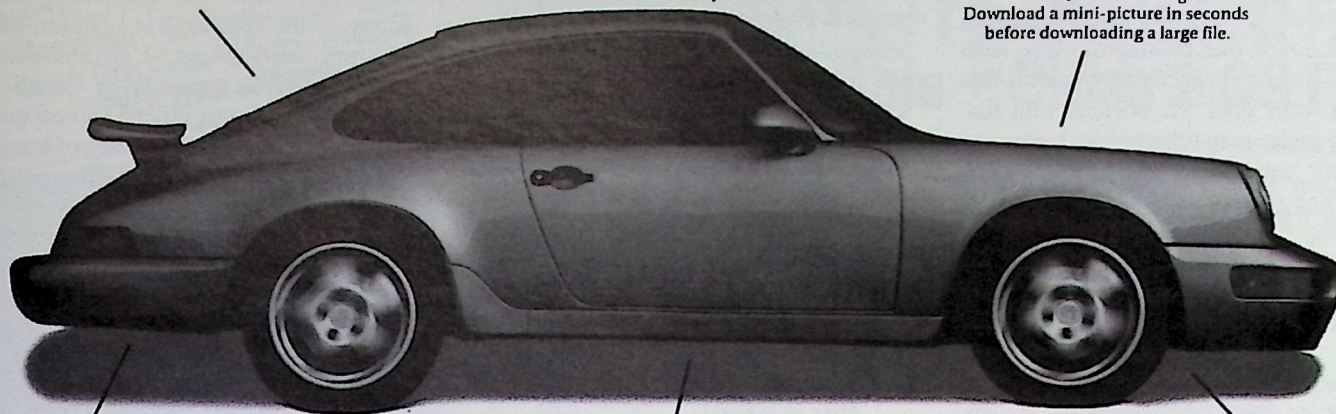
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Over 2,000,000 readers  
Over 30MB of traffic per day

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### FidoNet

World's largest hobbyist  
BBS Network

## Great BBS

The HoloNet BBS service has been developed and implemented by Information Access Technologies, Inc. We continually improve and add features to HoloNet, ensuring you'll never have to look elsewhere for the latest in networking services.

Using HoloNet you can quickly join and participate in the global electronic community. HoloNet's menu interface makes access to the USENET, FidoNet and Internet communities easy and enjoyable.

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For more information, call IAT at 510-704-0160 voice or 510-704-8019 fax.

## A Great Modem Deal

Holonet members can get Digicom high-performance modems at a special price. The Scout and Scout+ are available in two versions, external for all computers and as a half size internal card for IBM PCs. Both modems are AT command set compatible, support MNP-5 and V.42bis compression, and feature a DTE speed of 57,600bps. The Scout+ comes with fax software for the IBM.

	External	Internal	Speed
Scout	\$291.00	\$282.00	9600 bps (V.32)
Scout+	\$320.00	\$312.00	14400 bps (V.32bis)

For more information, call National Datacom Inc. at 408-263-1244 voice or 408-263-9442 fax.

## More Access Numbers

To find the closest access number near you call 1-800-NET-HOLO with your modem set for 8N1. Type *return* until the system responds. Answer the questions at the prompt. Or call HoloPacket direct in Berkeley, California: 510-704-1058.

### HoloNet Rates

#### Membership includes:

- 1st \$6.00 access credit per month
- 1st 100K of Data Storage per month

**Membership:** \$6.00 per month, or  
\$60.00 per year

#### Connect Rate includes:

1st MB of Data Transfer per hour  
*Off-Peak Peak*

**Connect Rate:** \$2.00 \$4.00/hour  
**Data Transfer:** \$1.00 \$2.00/MB

**Data Storage:** \$1.00/MB per month

### Network Access Surcharges

	Area	Cities	Off-Peak	Peak	Peak Periods
<b>HoloPacket</b>	Berkeley, CA	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	M-F 8 AM - 5 PM PST
	SF Bay Area	4	\$0.50	\$0.95	Except holidays
<b>PSINet</b>	USA	150+	\$0.95	\$1.95	M-F 8 AM - 6 PM EST
	North America	8	\$3.00	\$6.00	
	Global	37	\$18.00	\$18.00	
	9600 bps		+\$2.00	+\$2.00	
<b>Tymnet</b>	USA	850+	\$3.75	\$7.50	M-F 6 AM - 7 PM PST Except holidays
<b>Internet</b>	Global		\$0.00	\$0.00	



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some cretin who found a modem and selected YOU, out of 40,000 systems, to plague with the dubious distinction of being the next one he dialed, - live with it. The common reaction is to ban this person from your life forever and further, to make sure no one like him crosses your path again. Why not use the technology at hand and just post a notice warning EVERYBODY not to ever, ever, do anything like that or you will kick them off of "your" system forever and immediately?

This sounds pretty effective. Just tell people up front what the rules are and they will obey them or YOU will be perfectly justified in taking ridiculous and extreme actions because you WARNED THEM.

In the first place, if you run a system for two years and encounter one new and gruesome situation each month, you already have 24 often complicated scenarios described - complete with penalties - for every new caller to read. And it reads like what it is - a two year litany of sins and bitterness. This is NOT conducive to a friendly tone.

In the second place it doesn't work. In general, the real "problem" callers all seem to share the characteristic that they couldn't read the label on a pack of chewing gum if you gave them a year and a Kurzweil machine to do it. But it doesn't matter, they wouldn't BOTHER to read it anyway if they could. By posting an endless series of dire warnings and threats at logon, you essentially FILTER OUT THE GOOD GUYS and let the BAD GUYS IN. Most BBS operators just come unglued when they first hear this concept, but if you think about it, it is absolutely true.

Five minutes after you post your list of seventy-five deadly sins, many QUITE esoteric, technical, or unique to an on-line situation, some clown dials your system with his brand new first modem, the inevitable copy of BITCOM, the terminal program from hell, and a ton of enthusiasm for his new toys and his new world of bulletin boards. And at logon he dutifully gives his name, his address, his telephone, his shoe size, and so on - so conscientiously and sincerely you want to cry just watching him. And you have time to do that, because he types at about four words per minute and reads

at three - you have to clock him with a calendar. But he reads and studies every word because he's new and he wants to learn about BBSs. And his first introduction, after logging on, is a list of 75 situations where he can get in BIG trouble from a VERY angry big guy that runs this system. And with regards to almost all of the situations he's reading about, he hasn't the faintest CLUE what you're talking about. At the end of reading this list of sins, he knows precisely three things:

- 1. I don't know what any of this is about.
- 2. If I make one wrong move, I'm in BIG trouble.
- 3. This guy, whoever runs this system, is either really angry, really touchy, or clinically neurotic.

Even fairly simple, obvious rules can cause problems: **DON'T UPLOAD COPYRIGHTED SOFTWARE PROGRAMS TO THIS SYSTEM.** This simple, to the point "rule" brings up a number of questions for new callers, depending on how "new" they are:

- How do I know what I'm uploading is copyrighted or not?
- Almost all shareware programs say they are "copyrighted." Don't upload those?
- What is "copyrighted?"
- What is "upload?"
- Why is this guy mad?
- I'm looking for Joey. He's on a BBS in some other city - I forget which. If I send an e-mail message on this system, will he get it? Will it be considered copyrighted? Will he answer?

In general you want the tone on a BBS to be welcoming, friendly, and appropriate to your theme and mission. Any advantage you may gain from legal notices, rules, warnings, and so forth have to be balanced in an aware fashion against what they do to the tone your BBS conveys.

A simple example of where this goes awry is the basic request for information from the caller. Almost all BBS require

the name, address, and telephone number of the caller before granting them access to the system. But I couldn't tell you how many systems I've dialed into, been grilled by those basic questions along with a dozen others - some quite personal, and after 30 minutes of browsing about, reading all the bulletins, downloading files, etc., I still haven't got the faintest idea of who is running the system, where it's at, or anything else about the person behind the screen. Not only has the operator failed miserably at developing a sense of place, but a certain degree of reciprocity should be in order. If the sysop REALLY needs to know all that information about ME, why am I not extended the same consideration about him?

At the Boardwatch BBS, when new callers dial in, the first thing they see is a new caller text file. This file tells the caller where it is they've landed in the online world. Where Boardwatch is located geographically, our name, our address, our BBS number, our fax number, our voice number, why there is a Boardwatch Magazine, why there is a Boardwatch BBS. We summarize this by basically stating "That's who we are, what we do, and how to contact us. Before providing you access to this system, we'd like the same information from you." THEN we give them a questionnaire asking for name, address, telephone, and where they heard about us.

This reciprocity not only puts callers at ease, but is really quite appropriate. Think about it. You want the callers name, address, telephone, and in many cases a lot of other personal information so that you know who's using the system and can get in touch if they "injure" your system. By eliminating the anonymity, you dramatically decrease the incidence of virus software uploads, which might actually give that virus scanner you've been running for a year something to do. And it also causes people to behave more responsibly in message areas knowing that they must be who they claim they are. But there's really not much on the line here.

The caller on the other hand, is specifically telling YOU where and how to find them - often with their work and home telephones, addresses, etc. For all they know, you could be Jeffrey Dahmer sit-



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Quick Link II Fax™/Data - add \$30  
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**Talk  
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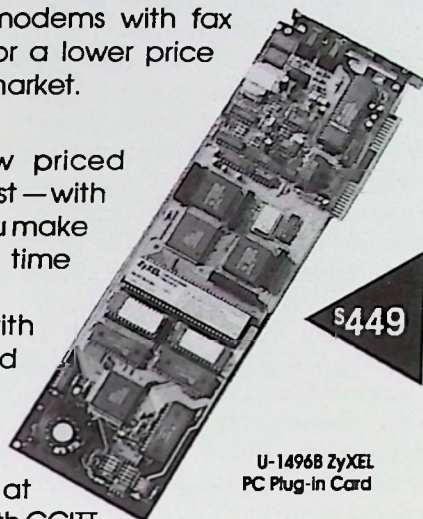
**Now you can talk faster, talk for less money and talk to everyone.**

Designed and manufactured to conform to the demanding standards of today's high speed data communication, the ZyXEL family of 14.4Kbps high speed dial-up modems with fax incorporate more technology for a lower price than any other modem on the market.

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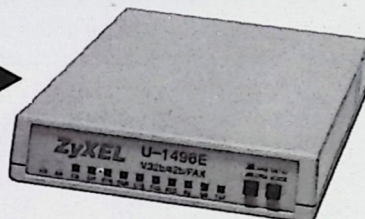
ZyXEL's high performance low priced modems not only let you talk fast — with wide compatibility — but help you make significant savings on network time and cost.

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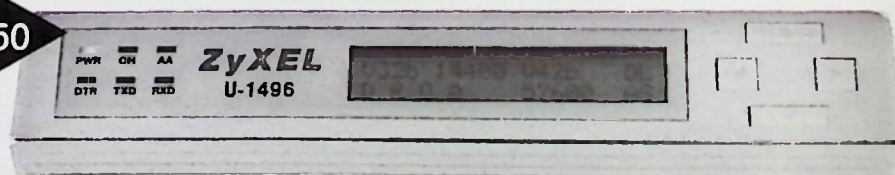
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ting at the keyboard with a refrigerator load of human heads and assorted random caller body parts six feet across the room behind you as you type in a friendly message "welcoming" them to your system.

If you must have a lot of rules, and a lot of sysops just live for that sort of thing, sprinkle them about the system instead of clobbering the caller with all of them before he's even seen if he wants to BE on your BBS. In the message area, you might have a menu item titled "About the Message Areas" where you explain how they work, what level of privacy they can expect, and what is considered a breach of etiquette. In the file areas, another message available under a menu title might explain some of the nuances of uploading, downloading, limits, ratios, that only ZIP files or ARC files are accommodated on this system, etc. Another message for chat areas might be appropriate. A little note at logoff that they are welcome back doesn't take too much out of anyone's day. The concept is "context sensitive" rule files. For many callers, such rules "out of context" are nonsense technobabble.

Whether you believe it or not, politely and positively worded explanations are actually more effective than dire threats of woe unto any future generations that might spawn from their loins. Many hesitate to use this technique because they fear the caller won't ever read the messages. News flash: forcing a message to scroll up their screen does NOT ensure they will read anything. It probably doesn't even up the percentage noticeably. A short three line message - perhaps. Anything over a screen will in almost all cases be completely ignored - it constitutes eyeball overload and almost no one wants to be anywhere online bad enough to read all that.

The other common mistake of many BBS systems is to take a twisted definition of "professionalism" to an extreme. Many novice system operators want desperately to "put CompuServe out of business." If that really is your mission statement, get a life. A BBS is not analogous to CompuServe, and in no way is competitive with it - and you don't want it to be. CompuServe basically resells an historical exemption from local access telephone charges allowing it to provide data communica-

tions at a discount from voice long distance charges. By adding entertainment value, they can actually resell that discounted communication link at a premium. That is what they sell, and they sell it by at this time aggregating hundreds of bulletin board services under a single menu. But their basic product is logged hours on a telephone network. If you ever could become a threat to them by running an immensely popular BBS, they will simply co-opt you by putting you online on THEIR service. And they have enough gold from logging hours on the network that you won't be able to say no.

But the super professional system operator designs all his menus, text files, etc. to reflect a humorless, cold, very businesslike and empty persona in a mistaken effort to make his three man group appear to the world to be IBM or General Motors. The news is, IBM lost over two billion dollars last year and General Motors announced that it was going to promote 74,000 of its finest employees to the street this year. Most callers find Joe's BBS, with lots of Joe's quirky personality, good humor, and uncommon knowledge on the subject of

cockatiel training much more attractive than the "Data Information Service - A Professional Online Product of the Farnhold Group."

The bottom line is that the primary reason callers will be attracted and retained on your system is not solely because of what you offer them in services, but more on the impression of space and place they FEEL while they are there. The cozy conviviality of the corner pub is much more effective than a meeting at the national guard armory motor pool garage or a visit to the federal courthouse. If they feel welcome in a convivial atmosphere and have found a place just a little bit different from every other one they've called, they may just make a home there. If they first have to read a text history of all the problems you've had learning to deal with the public and run a BBS, they will more likely keep right on dialing down the road.

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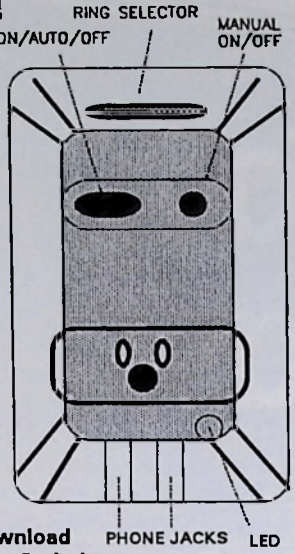
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## MACINTOSH BBS NEWS

by Bill Gram-Reefer

### TELEFINDER GROUP EDITION

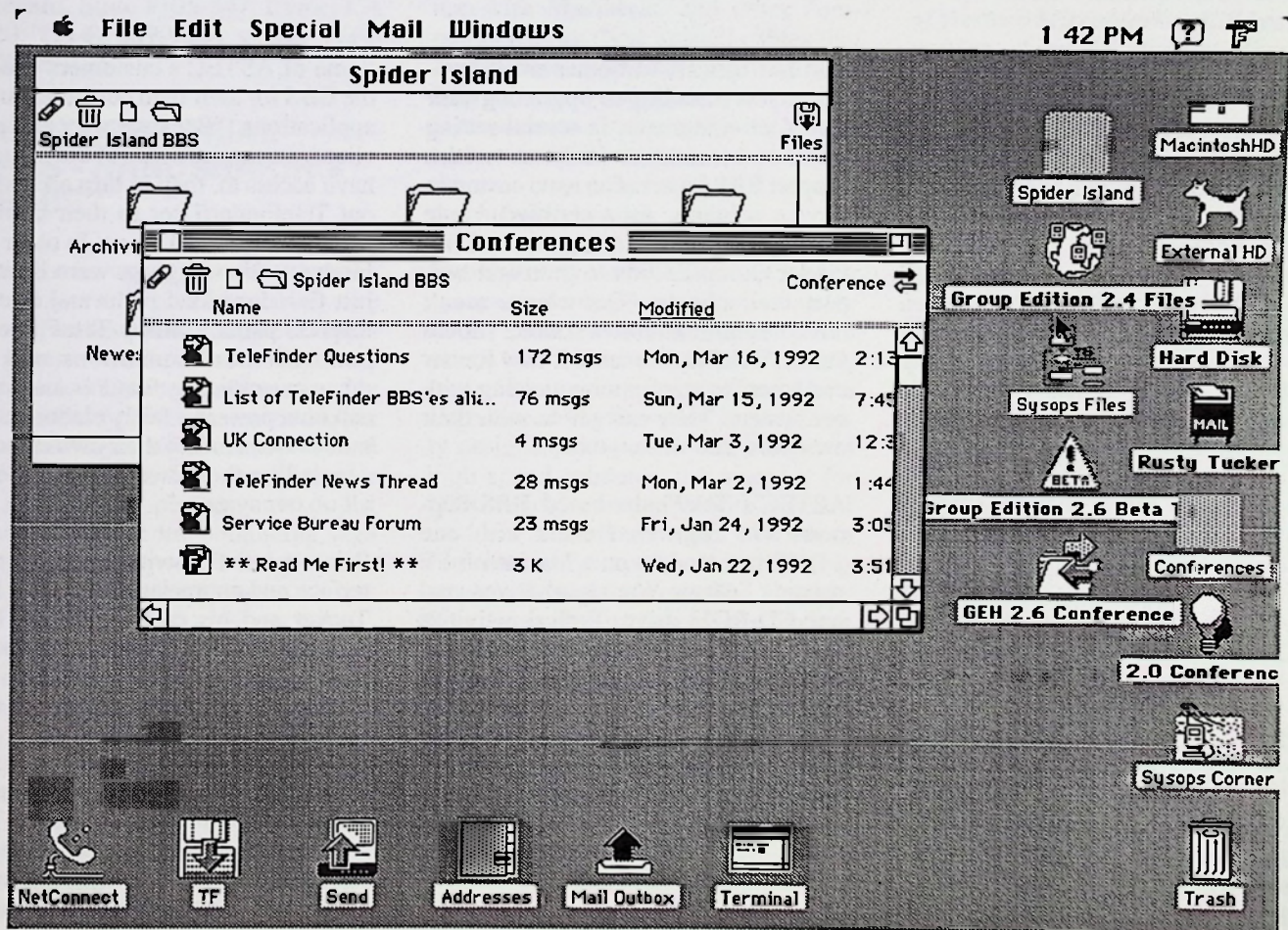
Spider Island Software is now shipping a new version of its **TeleFinder Group Edition (TGE)** multiline bulletin board system (BBS) software that works with Apple's Macintosh computers. Version 2.6 adds new capabilities that lets system operators (sysops) create and set unique privileges for virtually an unlimited number of separate access paths and privileges. The new version also allows sysops to use distinct welcome messages and customized color icons for separate paths and folders. In extreme, these unique capabilities allow sysops to thoroughly customize a BBS for each individual or group of users - even to actually run many different BBSs from the same host software and

computer! The retail price for TGE, which includes an unlimited user license, a User Manager program, and TeleFinder/User software - which can be freely distributed to subscribers for the purpose of communicating with a TeleFinder host via a Macintosh computer - is \$475. TGE is also available through mail-order (Maya) at a meaningful discount. Free upgrades are available to registered sysops who download the current version from Spider Island's support BBS, or - for a small fee, receive diskettes in the mail.

**TeleFinder Version 2.6** is the third upgrade to TGE software since November, 1991, and the fifth since last June. This activity reflects Spider Island's commitment to its product and customers - and to the growing Macintosh BBS market. TeleFinder host software, a manageable 330K in size, requires at least a **Macintosh 512KE** using system software 4.1 or greater, and modem speeds of 1200 bps or higher. TeleFinder supports E-mail, conferences, Z-modem file transfers, Tabby access to

Fidonet, and other features including a Find File function, File Hiliting - which displays new or modified files to the user in bold type for easier navigation - and Sysop Accounting Files that can be used for administrative and statistical analysis.

TeleFinder, like other recent arrivals including SoftArc's **First Class BBS** software and **NovaLink Pro**, provides Macintosh sysops with an easy-to-follow, icon- and menu-based, graphical user interface (GUI) for ease of set-up and use. TeleFinder BBSs can be accessed with any computer using terminal emulation software. At logon users can opt to continue using the command line interface or, if the caller has a Macintosh, may download the free TeleFinder/User software. The user version can be installed on the remote Mac providing the caller with the same intuitive Macintosh interface. DOS and other non Mac callers, however, must continue to use the command line interface which is more than adequate.





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TeleFinder's new upgrade replaces version 2.5 which limited the host to five conference areas and five download areas. In that and previous versions, sysops could set a user's privileges only on a universal basis. For instance, if a sysop denied a user downloading privileges, that restriction applied to all of the areas to which the user was given access. The newly released version now allows sysops to set privileges within each access area so that a user could download files in some areas, but not in others. And, the new version allows for even more customization by letting the sysop create many different group profiles that can each be assigned specific areas and paths, as well as preset privileges - thus providing the opportunity to present a virtually unique or different BBS to each group or even to each individual.

Rod Paine, for instance, runs ASTEC CO, a Macintosh-only consulting and systems integration business in Purcellville, VA - 65 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. ASTEC's customers include the graphic design department of the Winchester Star newspaper, two-

man law offices, and other small businesses just installing or upgrading their computer equipment. In a rural setting where customers are widely scattered, a support BBS is part of an ideal customer service solution. As a certified Apple developer, Paine and company use TeleFinder Group Edition to train and support their clients. "Our clients aren't telecommunications wizards," noted Paine. "TeleFinder makes it easy for our customers to start communicating with our system. They can get on with their own jobs, and we can too."

ASTEC's TeleFinder-based BBS supports 296 registered users with one 14,400 bps modem on a Macintosh SE running Seagate Wren hard drives, and one CD-ROM drive. Typical activities include a 24-hr/day gateway to other services and E-mail. About a third of Paine's users pay \$96 per year for access; others access (and pay for) the system as customers of ASTEC's consulting and system-integration business.

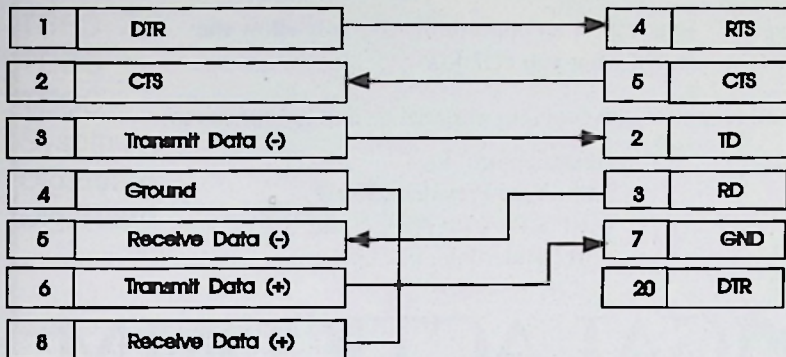
Some of ASTEC's customers even use the BBS for their own customer support applications. "Because we can let our clients customize some of the paths they have access to, they in turn are handing out TeleFinder/User to their own customers," explained Paine. In older TeleFinder versions, sysops were limited to just five download paths and five conference paths. "Since TeleFinder 2.6 removes those limitations and adds other customizing features our clients can now present a fairly elaborate communications link to their own customers - including their own company logos - all on our system."

Paine is satisfied with TeleFinder's interface and appreciates the effort Rusty Tucker and his crew at Spider Island Software have spent designing and supporting the product. "In fact, TeleFinder's implementation of Z-modem is as fast or faster than Smartcom II - that alone says something about the product," continued Paine. On Paine's "wish list" of features he'd like to see implemented on future versions of TGE are the ability to use customizable icons in folders as well as at





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the root-level of the system, and the ability to use PICT formatted graphics. Spider Island Software, 4790 Irvine Boulevard, Suite #105-347, Irvine, CA 92720; (714) 669-9260 voice; (714) 730-5785 BBS.

## MACINTOSH SERIAL PORTS - HANDSHAKING CABLES?

You might be wrong, but after hearing the many reports concerning the awkward (at best) performance of Apple Computer's modem/fax unit in its Powerbook 170, one could reasonably conclude that Apple actually tried to get around the Hayes AT command set and failed - miserably. For now, consider such ignominious performance as just another chapter in the continuing saga of Apple's inability to get it right when it comes to the modem thing.

Take, for instance, flow control. Apple's Macintosh uses non-standard arrangements for flow control pin assignments. In Apple's scheme, the clear-to-send (CTS) pin is used for outflow control, but the data-terminal-ready (DTR) pin is used instead of the request-to-send (RTS) location for input flow control. At least that's how Apple does "hardware handshaking."

While not crucial at low throughput, where you stick what at 9,600 bps is a critical concern. High-speed modems in use with Macintosh and other computers require these special cables that make these connections correctly to help increase throughput to 20 percent. If a standard cable is used with Macintosh-compatible high-speed modems, the user may detect slow data transfer and increased errors.

Unfortunately, some Mac users, a few sysops, and many retailers are unaware of this exotic cable requirement - which can be hard to find and expensive. However, Celestin Company's CompUnite High-Speed Modem cable is specifically designed to be used with Macs and high-speed modems. Its support for DTR makes it compatible with standard modems as well as newer Macintosh communications applications including Apple's Remote Access. The Celestin Company offers its CompUnite modem cable at an introductory price of just \$14 - which compares favorably to prices typically approaching \$25. The price includes standard ground shipment and a 30-day money-back guarantee. VISA and MC accepted. Celestin Company, 1177 Salida Way, El Sobrante, CA 94803; (800) 835-5514.

## MAC BOARD OF THE MONTH?

The University of California at Berkeley's Macintosh User Group's (BMUG) is our pick of the month for this month's award. With recently donated equipment BMUG runs an active 16-line host with plenty of echoes - on a 486 PC compatible running TBBS v.2.2!

While no self-respecting sysop would ever turn down free state-of-the-art equipment, one has to wonder. Actually, BMUG lost their Apple hardware to thievery but will be up again on a new Mac, running a First Class host software, before summer vacation. BMUG, 1442A Walnut Street, Suite #62, Berkeley, CA 94709-1496; (510) 549-2684 voice; (510) 849-2684 BBS.

[ Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, California, is a publicist working with Comstock Communications. He operates the *WORLDVIEW BBS* at (510)676-2919 running on a Macintosh computer. As the former editor of *SHOWPAGE* and associate publisher of *Western MicroMarket*, Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984.]

## SHAREWARE FINDS

### OZCIS - COMPUSERVE INTERFACE SHAREWARE PROGRAM

As the online world matures, there is a never-ending quest for better tools to deal with it. If you receive two e-mail messages a week and casually monitor a few message areas, everything seems pretty workable. But as you develop relationships with people online, you can often become enmeshed in it to such a degree that you'll receive ten or fifteen messages a day privately, and actively participate in a half dozen or more conferences. At times, the volume can take the fun out of it. The trend is toward more, not less. Survival depends on better tools to manage your communications. We think we've found one you should know about.



CompuServe is undoubtedly one of the most successful large commercial services. They now claim over 900,000 accounts on the system. Although they've recently introduced a \$7.95 per month "flat-rate" option in response to Prodigy and GENie's offerings, this is largely misleading. Almost anything of value on the service involves a connect-time charge of \$12.75 for 2400 bps access and over \$18 per hour at 9600 bps. These prices are comparatively high compared to most competing online services. But the service has reached some form of critical mass of users that make many of the forums really quite attractive.

Increasingly, CompuServe can be viewed as a collection of bulletin boards. Referred to as FORUMS, each section nonetheless offers several file libraries, message areas, and chat function all focused on some theme or topic and usually operated by one or two "sysops" who really don't work for CompuServe at all in the usual sense, but act as independent contractors. They receive a percentage, usually in the range of 10-15% of the fees collected from callers while they are in the particular forum.

These forums become essentially small social clusters where anywhere from ten to as many as fifty or sixty "regulars" hang out to discuss desktop publishing, notebook computers, or whatever the forum is devoted to. And increasingly CompuServe users will frequent one or two forums, take advantage of the system wide (virtually global) electronic mail, and ignore everything else.

Because of the painful online connect charges, as well as this trend toward really using CompuServe forums more than CompuServe as a system, a number of software programs have been developed to beat the clock. The earliest of these, and probably still the most popular, was TAPCIS. TAPCIS allowed callers to read and respond to personal e-mail AND forum message threads OFFLINE. The program would dial into the system, make a quick mail swap, and hangup - minimizing the connect charges. The caller could then read and respond to message traffic OFFLINE at their leisure. This is a recurrent theme in the online world - participate, but do so from OFFLINE.

Vern Buerg, author of one of the most successful and respected shareware programs in the world (LIST), tried his hand at a CIS forum management package titled ATO. ATO was something of an advance over TAPCIS, but like TAPCIS was still a bit Spartan in the creature comforts area. Both TAPCIS and ATO could be quite confusing for novice CIS users - both to install and operate.

Last fall, Steve Sneed of Colorado Springs released a beta version of a sensational new forum manager for CompuServe he calls OzCIS. This past March 10 he released the first 1.0 production version of the program and it is an eye full. There has been NO promotion of this program and since it is free for non-commercial use, there may never be any. But we would feel comfortable predicting that when word of this slick, mouse-driven program gets out among CompuServe users, it will take over more or less completely. If you use CompuServe and DON'T use OzCIS, you're squirting money into your telephone line for no apparent reason.

Sneed actually works for a software company called TurboPower. They make tools to make program slick windows-like interfaces easier. And Sneed has put them to work. OzCIS doesn't pretend to be for little PCs. In fact, it won't work on an XT at all and seems to prefer 286/386 hardware with a megabyte of EMS memory. The program will just barely run under DESQview and Windows but ideally occupies a piggish 520 KB of RAM. But the net effect is a powerful program that performs almost any task you might want to perform on CompuServe.

The primary mission of such programs is forum maintenance. You can fairly easily set this program up to dial up CompuServe on a regular basis, upload any outbound messages you may have created, download any new messages appearing in any sections of any forums you may specify, download a list of all new files uploaded to that section, and logoff. Offline, you read the messages, respond to them if you just absolutely feel you must, and perhaps pick out a few files you want to download. You can then pull the trigger and it will reconnect to CompuServe and OzCIS will "make

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it so" by delivering the new mail, downloading the files, and disconnecting.

The program is really a complete CompuServe environment. Beyond forum maintenance, it does a superb job of handling your regular CompuServe private e-mail, and supports Internet mail, Fax, and Postal delivery. OzCIS has a built-in GIF image viewer. It is extensible in that you can actually write scripts to perform specific functions on CompuServe. Several built in scripts are already provided for such tasks.

Additionally, it has a terminal mode allowing you to just log onto CompuServe and browse about. This is probably most used for those who frequent chat sections.

The new ground covered by OzCIS beyond TAPCIS or ATO though is the interface. Beautifully colored menus with drop down screens are as slick as any commercial program we've ever seen. It works superbly with a mouse, and if you hate meeces to pieces, keystrokes not only work, but there are typically three different keystrokes for

any task: a Word Perfect-like function key, a Lotus like command bar/key combination, and an ALT-KEY combo familiar with terminal users. You can't miss liking one of these.

The editors in this program, and there are several, are superb. Primarily designed around Wordstar commands, the norm is a split screen with the message you are reviewing in the top half and the message you are writing in the bottom. Most split-screen paradigms leave us a little lost in that whatever you want to do, you have to do something else first to get into the right half of the screen to do what you want to do. In OzCIS, generally, if you can see it and click on it you can do it. Additionally, the program features a cut/paste clipboard that also works quite functionally to move things between one message and another anywhere in CompuServe. The result is a really functional interface superbly designed for the task of reading and responding to electronic mail.

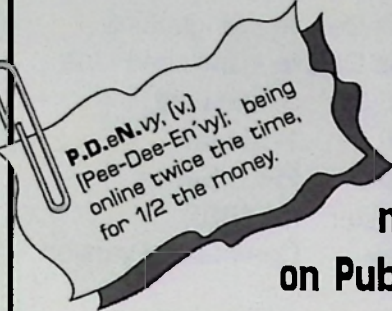
OzCIS comes in four self-extracting .EXE files. Installation is quite straight forward. You put these four files into any dedicated directory, and run them to ex-

tract the component files. Enter OZCIS to start the program. You will have to do some configuration the first time, and yes, there are a PC-load full of options to figure out. But it is easier than any other such program we've seen.

OzCIS is available for download from CompuServe in the IBM Communications Forum (GO IBMCOM). Section 9 covers online navigational aids and the four files are available for download in that library. This is also the primary support area for OzCIS. Alternatively, you can send \$30 to Steve Sneed and he'll send you the program on diskette with printed documentation. There is a \$50 registration fee for "commercial use" which is somewhat ill-defined, but for most the use of the software is completely free of charge. We've seen and used CompuServe Information Manager, TAPCIS, ATO, and a few lesser titles. But if you use CompuServe even casually, OzCIS should be your next download from that service. Highly recommended. Steve Sneed, CIS 70007,3574, Ozarks West Software, 14150 Gleneagle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80921; (719)260-7151 FAX.



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## LEGALLY ONLINE

### ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FAIR TO USE

by Lance Rose

You need not go far to find newspaper or magazine articles reproduced whole in BBS public postings. Some people make quite an art of it, selecting and redistributing news items to emphasize certain aspects of daily events for BBS callers.

Ask the person who uploads a copied newspaper article whether his actions are acceptable to the person or newspaper who originally published it. The two most common answers are, "hmmm, I didn't think about that," and "I'm well within my rights pal, because it's \*fair use\* to copy news articles." The first answer is probably more honest, and indicates the uploader might consider the possibility that he is treading on the rights of others.

Answer number two - the claim that copying news articles verbatim is obviously "fair use" - usually makes the questioner shut right up. The uploader portrays himself virtuously as only doing his civic duty. How dare anyone suggest that spreading the news is infringing? Moreover, if the original writer and publisher are given credit in the posting, doesn't that make it perfectly legal?

Not really. The "fair use" excuse is used so often, and it works so well, because practically no one knows what fair use is! Most anyone who acts like an authority on the subject, replete with ringing affirmations of our Constitutional freedom of speech and mystifying pronouncements on the unfettered wanderings of electrons, is usually deferred to by others.

In fact, most people who tout fair use as their excuse for unauthorized copying have a much simpler concept: whatever they personally think is fair must be "fair use." If I think that copying a news article for free is fair, then it is fair use and not a copyright violation. But the person who wrote the article might not

think it's fair for you to redistribute it without paying him. So we have two persons' concepts of fairness, directly in conflict. That's not fair! And it certainly does not help us figure out whether the fair use exception actually applies to the situation.

Grab the nearest grain of salt. We'll now take a look at what fair use really is, and how it might apply to online postings of current news.

The fair use doctrine is a legal adjustment mechanism, enabling us to reconcile owning words under the Copyright Act with free speech under the First Amendment to the Constitution. Why do we need it? Under copyright law we own the texts we create, including news articles, the moment we create them. On the other hand, perfectly free speech would include the ability to copy others' writings without consent. This means as a logical matter, copyright protection necessarily limits freedom of speech. The Constitution itself seems to require the uneasy coexistence of these contradictory principles, and it has been accepted as well by Congress and the courts.

At times, the limits placed on free speech by copyright law prove too tight. In such cases, the public's need to freely discuss ideas and transmit information overrides the copyright laws. It is then that the fair use doctrine comes into play, permitting certain copying of someone else's work as necessary to assure freedom of speech.

The fair use doctrine started as judge-made law, and later became Section 107 of the Copyright Act. Section 107 describes four basic factors bearing on whether a given infringement can be excused as fair use:

- (i) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or for nonprofit educational purposes;
- (ii) the nature of the copyrighted work;
- (iii) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and



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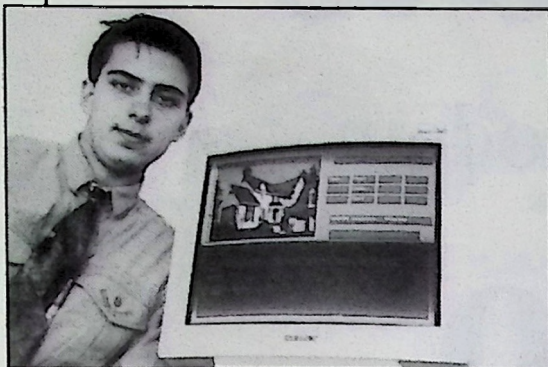
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(iv) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work

These are only general guidelines. As the legislative history of the Copyright Act points out, "the endless variety of situations and combinations of circumstances that can arise in particular cases precludes the formulation of exact rules in the statute."

This means each new situation must be analyzed according to how the fair use factors apply to its unique set of facts. Rules of thumb for fair use will not be accurate or useful, except for groups of cases that are nearly identical.

Perhaps the most commonly encountered examples of fair use are televised film reviews that include clips from the films under review, and book reviews with quotes from the books being reviewed. It's easy to see why there is fair use in such situations. Very small portions of the reviewed works are copied, and they are copied only to the extent necessary to permit meaningful

public discussion of the works. There is absolutely no competition between the review and the work being reviewed - quite the opposite, the review often helps to sell more of the reviewed work. Indeed, the films and books in question are churned out in reliance on the reviews, which let the public know that the reviewed works are available for consumption.

How does fair use apply to a very different situation, namely the practice described at the beginning of this column - quoting whole news articles or large portions of such articles online?

Under factor (i), one could say the purpose of copying the article is to spread news of public interest - quite a laudable goal. But wait a moment. Is it necessary to reproduce the exact words of someone else's news report precisely, just to convey to others the news content of that report? Usually, this is not the case - most any news report can be rephrased in many different ways. This type of plagiarism may be widely viewed as unethical, but it is not against the law.

So the grand purpose of helping to distribute important news does not justify verbatim copying of lengthy sections of articles. An uploader can spread news just as effectively without reproducing the original reporter's copyrighted expression. Of course, that requires more work by the uploader, which is probably what most uploaders are trying to avoid. Usually, the only time it is necessary to quote language verbatim to convey statements by public officials and public figures - but these aren't protected by the reporter's or publisher's copyright anyway.

We also consider the character of the use under (i), and specifically whether the use is commercial or nonprofit. The answer to this subquestion appears to vary with the BBS. BBS' and networks that do not charge their users any money have more of a nonprofit "look" and their uses of copyrighted material would be somewhat more likely to be fair use.



# Having trouble choosing the right BBS?

Whether you're planning your own version of CompuServe or just starting a single-line BBS in your basement, you'll find everything you need at Telesaurus. Our knowledgeable sales staff will help you choose from the widest selection of BBS software and hardware in the world. Software like TBBS, Wildcat!, PCBoard, Searchlight, Oracomm Plus, Coconet and XChange. Hardware from manufacturers like DigiBoard, Hayes, Intel, Practical Peripherals, US Robotics and others. And our "prehistoric prices" guarantee that you'll get the most for your money.

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BBS' that charge access fees would be seen as commercial and their postings less likely as candidates for fair use treatment. It does not matter much if the individual uploader does not make money from the posting. If the BBS in which the copied article is posted is making money from making such materials available on the system, that is a factor tending against fair use. Note that while profitmaking can heavily weigh against a fair use finding in a given case, lack of profitmaking does not, in itself, weigh heavily in favor of fair use.

Factor (ii) inquires into the nature of the copied work. In this case, it's news stories and articles from newspapers and magazines. This factor is probably a wash.

On one hand, these articles deal primarily in matters of great public interest, strongly invoking First Amendment and the need for copying to be protected as fair use. On the other hand, the articles are pieces of expressive writing, the most strongly protected type of text work under copyright. They are far more protected than, for instance, telephone

directories. As we noted above, the unprotected part of the articles - the facts they contain - can be taken by others as part of the public domain, without having to rely on the fair use exception. It's hard to see why it might be necessary to make the copier's job even easier, and permit him lazily to copy the exact words used by others in reporting the news.

Since we are talking about copying entire articles or large portions of articles, the copying is substantial for purpose of factor (iii). This is a strong indication against fair use.

Factor (iv) inquires into the effect of the copying on the copyright owner's market. This varies widely based on who originally published the article, and where the unauthorized copy is posted. If someone copies articles without permission from Newsbytes (an online electronic service) into the public forum areas of popular BBS', there is clearly a direct competitive effect on Newsbytes' market. On the other hand, if someone copies an occasional article from the New York Times into the public forum of a ladies' sewing circle BBS in Des

Moines, it's hard to argue that the Times directly lost any potential newspaper sales from the posting, or that it was meaningfully deprived from directly selling to the BBS the right to reproduce those articles electronically.

So how do all those factors add up? Like this:

- Copying whole articles or large portions of articles verbatim will always run afoul of factor (iii), tilting the balance against the posting being considered fair use. If verbatim copying is necessary, try to copy only smaller pieces of articles.

- If you want to use exact wording from others' news articles, make sure it is justified in each case. Typical examples would be where the original article itself quotes from third party sources, or where the copier quotes from news articles in order to critique news coverage by the publisher or reporter who produced the article.

- The less it looks like others' articles are being copied verbatim as part of a commercial enterprise, the better. Oc-



casional postings of print newspaper articles on a free online service looks like fair use. Regular verbatim repostings of news articles on a commercial BBS look like straightforward copyright infringement.

- Try to stay away from verbatim copying of editorials, essays, satires, etc. These are more highly "expressive" than straight factual news stories, and less likely to be treated as fair use under any circumstances.

- If you truly are interested in broadly redistributing news online, try to put the news in your own words. Reposting someone else's already written article merely to save yourself the effort of rephrasing the material is not fair use.

- Try not to copy articles from publishers or writers who publish in the online environment themselves. These are the most likely to be disturbed by online copying, even bona fide fair use copying, and the most likely to challenge the practice.

So fair use is available for online postings, though not perhaps so freely as some might insist.

(While on the subject of online news distribution, a small additional warning. There is the possibility that news redistribution without permission may be illegal, even if there is no copyright violation, under an old Supreme Court holding that news gathering and reporting organizations have rights in "hot news" when it first breaks. News up to a few hours old may be considered hot - after that, it should be sufficiently cooled off in most cases that we need only be concerned with copyright questions)

To some, this discussion may seem a bit academic. Realistically, how likely is it that some newspaper publisher will sue a BBS for violating its copyright in an article? There are two answers to this.

First, there is a moral component to the fair use question, quite aside from the likelihood of enforcement. It comes down to a matter of respect for other's rights in their creative work. You don't even have to respect the property rights system in general. Just respect the fact that others put their work out there in

reliance on that system and with a certain degree of trust that others will refrain from grossly stealing from them. You can also take a golden rule approach. We are all publishers when we go online. Don't do anything with others' writings you wouldn't want them to do with yours.

Second, the large scale publishers are coming online faster than you may think. One sure indicator is the current battle, in court and on Capitol Hill, in which the large newspaper publishers are trying to keep telephone companies out of the information services business. Big advertising dollars are at stake. The newspapers' premise seems to be that many of those dollars are poised to migrate from the print medium to computerized electronic media.

When those ad dollars do start flowing online, the publishers will be right there with the telephone companies, looking for ways to secure big chunks of cyber-turf. At that point, which may be soon, don't be surprised if the big publishers swiftly pull in the reins on the more flagrant instances of online copying from third party sources.

*[Lance Rose is an attorney practicing high-tech, computer and intellectual property law in the New York City area, and is available on the Internet at [el-rose@well.sf.ca.us](mailto:el-rose@well.sf.ca.us) and on CompuServe at 72230,2044. He works with shareware publishers, software authors, system operators, technology buyers, interactive media developers, on-line database services and others in the high technology area. He is currently revising the book SYSLAW, a legal guide for bulletin board system operators, due out next month under M&T publishing. - Editor]*

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## INTERNET NEWS

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### THE WELL NOW AVAILABLE VIA INTERNET

The Whole Earth Lectronic Link or WELL has developed a following from their home in Sausalito California in the back room of the offices of the Whole Earth Magazine. Over 5000 subscribers support the system and it's developed a reputation as the place to be for spirited discourse on the topics of the day.

The service runs on a Sequent mini-computer under an operating system strongly patterned after UNIX. Over a year ago the system connected to the Internet for electronic mail through a connection with BARRnet, a regional network service provider serving the bay area. Internet mail users could address mail to [user@well.sf.ca.us](mailto:user@well.sf.ca.us).

But access to the 64-port system was accomplished either by direct dial by modem or by dialing a local CompuServe network number and entering WELL as the service. Within the past few months, the WELL has finally made a connection via the Internet for telnet access. WELL subscribers can now connect to the service through the Internet by entering telnet [well.sf.ca.us](http://well.sf.ca.us) or telnet 192.132.30.2. This eliminates the cost of long distance calls or CompuServe connect charges.

### NOVELL NLM ALLOWS INTERNET E-MAIL FOR LANs

Novell Inc. produces the software used to connect PCs in local area networks. They've become so powerful in this market that for all practical purposes they own it. Despite a fringe of LAN vendors such as Artisoft with LANtastic and a few others, the vast majority of LANs worldwide run Novell's Netware.

One of the basic applications on LANs is e-mail - the ability to send an electronic message from one workstation and have it properly addressed and routed to any other particular person using the LAN. Novell's basic e-mail



format is the Message Handling System or MHS. MHS is a basic format, and there are any number of vendors that provide fairly elegant e-mail packages such as cc:Mail, Higgins, and DaVinci Mail that use the MHS format. There are at least three million people in the United States that use office e-mail in these MHS islands.

Novell has made some effort to link these LAN islands - going so far as setting up their own dialup mail hub where anyone can pass e-mail from their LAN and make the connection to any other LAN that also uses the hub in a store and forward manner. Additionally, last year CompuServe announced an MHS hub service with a little wider scope. But aside from these, Novell LAN e-mail was struggling to "make the connection" to a wider world.

In a major shift in their e-mail strategy, Novell has announced a new program titled NetWare Global Messaging that includes NetWare Loadable Modules (NLM) to connect to other e-mail systems. Basically, MHS will now be a NLM and it will no longer be necessary to run it on a separate machine - it will be resident on the server. Further, there will be NLMs for X.400 e-mail and IBM's Systems Network Architecture Distributed Services (SNADS). But perhaps most impressive is an NLM allowing Novell LANs to gateway to Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) e-mail systems common in the Unix world. Essentially, this is a gateway into the global network of electronic mail referred to as the Internet.

In the past, it was possible to connect Novell LAN e-mail systems to other worlds via gateways, but these solutions were awkward for users to deal with. The new MHS NLM and its associated SMTP NLM should allow an almost transparent link to the global network. We would expect an almost universal linkup of Novell LANs around the country to the Internet as a consequence.

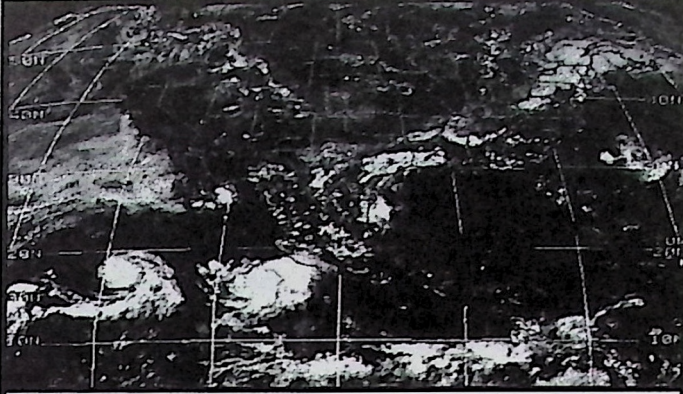
## CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON INTERNET HELD MARCH 12

The Science Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology held  
a three-hour hear-

ing on the Internet and NREN March 12, 1992. The hearings, chaired by Congressman Rich Boucher (D-VA) with Ron Packard (R-CA) representing the minority, were held to examine complaints of the inappropriateness of the National Science Foundation granting contracts to MERIT Network Inc. and ANS for operation of the NSFNet backbone. These complaints focused on the fact that the backbone contract had been extended to ANS without competitive bidding, and caused an unfair tilting of the competitive playing field.

Those testifying before the committee included:

- Mike Roberts, VP of Networking for EDUCOM
- Doug van Houweling, Board of MERIT Network Inc.
- Eric Hood, President, Federation of American Research Networks
- Mitch Kapor, Board of Commercial Internet Exchange (CIX)
- Bill Schrader, President, Performance Systems International.



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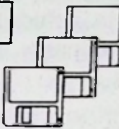
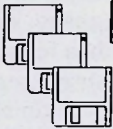
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The entire scrap seemed to be made up of two views of the Internet. One view holds that it is a pre-competitive research network used to provide nearly 80% of the students and faculty at America's Universities with an education and research network. The NREN is ostensibly to fund expansion and research into faster and better networking techniques. An Acceptable Use Policy essentially limits this government funded network to non-commercial activities.

The other view is that Internet is a working network that many companies would like to connect to for commercial purposes. This view holds that the Acceptable Use Policy should be dropped, federal funding for the backbone should be dropped, and that companies such as Performance Systems International, other members of CIX, and so forth should be allowed to sell access to the network. One faction, headed by Mitch Kapor and Bill Schrader, further complains that IBM, through the ANS CO+RE subsidiary, has had an inside deal with the NSFNet to give them a monopoly, or at least an unfair advantage in selling access to the Internet.



The research networkers fear that the withdrawal of government funding and the commercialization of the network will pretty much kill any chance for technological advance of the network - freezing it at its current stage of development.

We view this situation with some melancholy. The Internet was really a new thing. The current world of the Internet was born in the insular world of university computer science departments, government research labs, and the utopian ideals of a series of Unix and mainframe technological visionaries. It developed an internal culture of openness and sharing that spanned campuses, nations, and eventually made the connection in over thirty nations around the world. Unlike most entities, it was based on a culture of inclusion rather than exclusion. And with remarkably little resource, considering the accomplishments, it has grown in the past four years to include an incredibly number of participants, some 720,000 host computers.

March 12th would appear to mark the beginning of the end of that Internet. We now have competitive interests includ-

ing IBM, MCI, PSI, and the other members of CIX squabbling like selfish children over a toy that none of them created, but all feel both an avarice and some bizarre inalienable right to profit from. We suspect that the natural progression of such things points to the stultifying "standardization" of the Internet - effectively killing innovation on the actual network we use now - much as feared by the educational community. The tone of the hearings was heavily in favor of removing the Acceptable Use Policy restrictions and letting the bandits have at the carcass of Internet in a mad scramble to "commercialize."

The upside is that it is likely that many more of us will have access to the Internet than before - at a price. And the legacy of the domain naming system, the TCP/IP connectivity, and the concept of universal, worldwide e-mail is certainly a boon. The metaconcepts embodied there will probably be called "the Internet" and many won't notice the change other than higher prices and ultimately measured service based on some increment of time or per-message charges. But there will be many more fences appearing on the open range of what we knew as the Internet. And it

may ultimately prove to be an attempt to sew a sows ear out of a silk purse. The entire structure of open connectivity and the coming scramble to find a way to profit from it is a bit of an unlikely marriage. But happily, we should wind up with some form of more universal network that more people can use.

What about NREN? We would expect it to be dramatically "downsized" as far as the population that can reach it. Albert Gore's little girl in Tennessee is going to have to wait awhile to logon to the Library of Congress. The federal money will likely be used to connect supercomputer and research centers in a new experimental high-speed gigabit network that only a few will be able to access - at least for awhile.

And the national data highway element of NREN envisioned by Gore? It's history. No longer under discussion. We are seeing the apportionment of areas of influence where private companies construct their own toll roads, or accept pieces built by the government with your tax money and bequeathed to them as gifts by politicians, and connect them with the usual maze of conflicting policies, tolls, prices, and restrictions. We view it as very fortunate that the Eisenhower Administration launched the project to build an Interstate Highway system in the late 1950s. Under our current form of government, it would not be possible to accomplish this today.

The full text of Internet eulogy submitted to the House Science Subcommittee as testimony is available courtesy of J. Paul Holbrook, Technical Services Manager of CICNet, Inc., in Ann Arbor Michigan. You can obtain the file by ftp at [nic.cic.net](ftp://nic.cic.net) as [/pub/reports/nsfnethearing.ps](ftp://pub/reports/nsfnethearing.ps).

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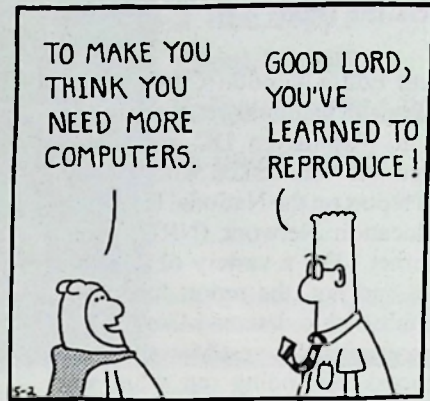
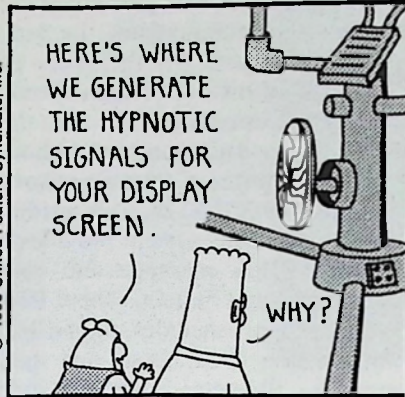
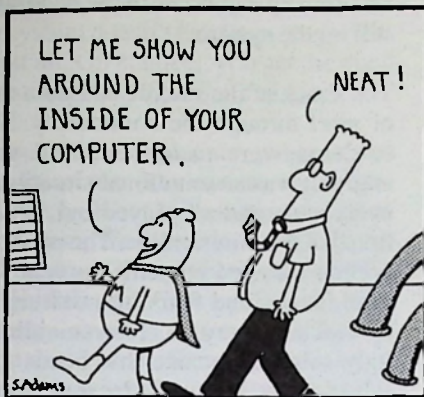
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## TOM JENNINGS AMONG WINNERS OF THE ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION'S FIRST PIONEER AWARDS - EFF OPENS COMPUSERVE SIG

The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) presented the five winners of the first annual EFF Pioneer Awards at the Second Conference on Computers, Freedom, and Privacy held March 19, at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, DC. In announcing the winners, Mitchell Kapor, President of the EFF, said "We've created the Pioneer Awards in order to recognize and honor individuals who have made groundbreaking contributions to the technology and culture of digital networks and communities." The criteria for the Pioneer Awards was that the person or organization nominated had to have made a substantial contribution to the health, growth, accessibility, or freedom of computer-based communications.

And, as they say, the winners were:

- Tom Jennings of San Francisco, California
- Jim Warren of Woodside, California
- Douglas C. Engelbart of Fremont, California
- Robert Kahn of Reston, Virginia
- Andrzej Smereczynski of Warsaw, Poland.

Tom Jennings started the Fidonet international network. Today it is a linked network of amateur electronic bulletin board systems (BBSs) with more than 15,000 nodes worldwide and still grow-

ing. He contributed to the technical backbone of this system by writing the FIDO BBS program as well as to the culture of the net by pushing for development and expansion since the early days of BBSing. He is currently editor of FidoNews, the network's electronic newsletter.

Jim Warren has been active in electronic networking for many years. Most recently he has organized the First Computers, Freedom and Privacy Conference, set-up the first online public dialogue link with the California legislature, and has been instrumental in assuring that rights common to older mediums and technologies are extended to computer networking.

Douglas Engelbart is one of the original moving forces in the personal computer revolution who is responsible for many ubiquitous features of today's computers such as the mouse, the technique of windowing, display editing, hypermedia, groupware and many other inventions and innovations. He holds more than 20 patents and is widely-recognized in his field as one of our era's true visionaries.

Robert Kahn was an early advocate and prime mover in the creation of ARPANET which was the precursor of today's Internet. Since the late 60's and early 70's Mr. Kahn has constantly promoted and tirelessly pursued innovation and heightened connectivity in the world's computer networks.

Andrzej Smereczynski is the Administrator of the PLEARN node of the Internet and responsible for the extension of the Internet into Poland and other east European countries. He is the person directly responsible for setting up

the first connection to the West in post-Communist Middle Europe. A network "guru", Mr. Smereczynski has worked selflessly and tirelessly to extend the technology of networking as well as its implicit freedoms to Poland and neighboring countries.

Nominations for the Pioneer Awards were carried out over national and international computer-communication systems from November, 1991 to February 1992. Several hundred nominations were received by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and the final winners were selected by a panel of six judges.

This year's judges for the Pioneer Awards were: Dave Farber of the University of Pennsylvania Computer Science Department; Howard Rheingold, editor of The Whole Earth Review; Vint Cerf, head of CNRI; Professor Dorothy Denning, Chair of George Washington University's Computer Science Department; Esther Dyson, editor of Release 1.0, Steve Cisler of Apple Computer, and John Gilmore of Cygnus Support.

The EFF has also opened a forum on the CompuServe Information Service titled EFFSIG. Type **GO EFFSIG** to join. The new conference opened in March and reportedly is enjoying heavy traffic.

For more information contact: Gerard Van der Leun, Director of Communications, Electronic Frontier Foundation, 155 Second Street, Cambridge, MA 02141; (617) 864-0665; Internet: [van@eff.org](mailto:van@eff.org)



## COOK REPORT INTERNET NEWSLETTER

Technical Editor Gordon Cook joined the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) in Washington DC about two years ago and was tasked with writing an OTA report on the National Research and Education Network (NREN) and the Internet. For a variety of reasons, political and not, the report has never been published to date and Gordon left the organization this past March. But in the process of finding out what was going on with NREN/Internet, Gordon brought to bear one of his most deeply imbedded talents. The man is an incorrigible gossip. And by telephoning one Internet insider after another, carrying a bit of news from this one to that one, he developed a network of contacts that cast him as the Rhona Barrett of the Internet.

In life after OTA, Gordon is a bit at loose ends. So he's started a newsletter titled *The COOK Report on Internet-NREN*. The first monthly issue was 12 pages of editorial, commentary, gossip, and reportage covering Washington and the Internet. The Cook Report is priced at \$75 for individuals and \$300 annually for institutions. You might contact Gordon and ask for a sample issue. Gordon Cook, COOK Network Consultants, 431 Greenway Ave, Ewing, NJ 08618; (609)882-2572 voice; Internet: cook@tmn.com.

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## DIRECT DIAL BBS

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### WEST TEXAS SCHOOL BBS

Ector County spans a good bit of the west Texas oil country. While it may be politically correct to be "green" and "environmentally conscious" in many areas of the country, the EPA has just about shut down the oil industry in Odessa. We understand the EPA just had a rulemaking allowing EPA agents to carry a sidearm, and we would expect they'll need it in this region of the country. There are only two major crops in the Odessa Texas region: oil, and kids.

While the oil business looks like its going to suffer a bit this year under the yoke of environmentalism, the kids seem to be doing ok. We found one of the best school district bulletin boards we've seen in operation there with the **Ector County Independent School District Computer Communications system** at (915)332-8128. This artfully done 16-line TBBS system provides a number of files, message and conference areas, and bulletins about PTA meetings, school schedules, a good deal of information about drugs and their drug policy - all pretty routine PTA-style fare. We also found a pretty impressive file area with a heavy focus on tutorials and educational programs. A West Texas Astronomy Club has a section there with some pretty good information on astronomy and some of the vagaries of peering up through the soup of atmosphere at the heavens. Jerry Cooper, a school administrator, is also the system operator.

The system actually serves the kids quite well, if not quite the way we expected. The main feature is a chat function allowing students to socialize online. On a Sunday night in March, 13 lines were tied up with users engaged in online chat and messaging. According to one of the students, Anthony Grijalva, "you can't get a line on Friday nights."

ECISD serves six junior high schools as well as Permian High School and Odessa High School - a total population of some 15,000 students. The system, which has been up for some two years, seems to serve mostly a social function. According to Shane Walters, they "meet each other online, make friends, lose friends, and learn about computers." Not a bad application when you consider it.

While looking at ECISD, we ran into a sobering aspect of the BBS. The system sports an online "Memorial to John Williams." We had to ask what this was about. John Williams was a 16 year old student at one of the local high schools and very active on ECISD. Like many adolescents, Williams was despondent over family pressures and girl problems - the two big ones for teenage boys. One night last August, he logged onto the

system, chatted for a bit, and then took his life with a gunshot to the head while still on the system.

The shock of the suicide caused a wave of grief through the community. Most students were saddened, and some angry. It was an emotional situation for everyone - and all played out in emotional discussions online. The memorial section allowed students to vent their grief, anger, and fears into writing in a special message area. Teen suicide is an ugly subject, but one that needs to be talked about. It is on the increase nationwide and seems to be almost contagious in some communities. In Ector County, ECISD is one of the ways students try to cope with this situation. And teen awareness of the impact of a suicide or attempted suicide is one of the keys. Shane Walters, one of the ECISD students, puts it succinctly: "Those who attempt suicide should be sentenced....to life." Ector County Independent School District BBS (915)332-8128

## 49000 COMPACT DISK TITLES ONLINE

The music industry has undergone some profound changes with the introduction of the Compact Disk format. If Kenneth Lovett has his way, it's about to go through another - online sales. The largest walk-in music store might have five or six thousand CDs on sale. Lovett's **Compact Disc Connection** BBS at (408)730-9015 sports an online database of over 49,000 titles and growing. You CAN find what you're looking for in the way of CD music. And the system is totally charming.

CDC BBS runs on three 9600 bps lines and currently is receiving some 3000 calls monthly. Each line accesses a 386SX machine running independent copies of the database. Since there is no user log, and no message base, nothing is actually shared between the three machines. Ken and his partner have worked at the service full time since it first went online in May 1990. This is what they do for a living. The system uses a bizarre custom software program written in a combination of Cobol and Assembly Language that does it's somewhat narrow job VERY effectively.



The first thing we noticed when we "logged on" was that we didn't have to. The system doesn't ask for any information at all. On connect, you get the main menu. It's fairly Spartan, but quick.

We found the database stunning in speed and ease of use. You can search by title, by artist, by label, by catalog number, or by free text. We entered STEWART for Rod Stewart. We probably found FIFTEEN different CDs by Rod Stewart and they squirted up on the screen in "right now" order. Stewart has a sort of "complete works" package that typically sells for \$55 or so at Price Club. It was on CDC for \$40.84. Bob Seger likewise produced a list of everything the man had ever done and every label he was available on. With each screen, you get a prompt to add to your "list". Enter the catalog number and the title is added and you can continue to review the hits from your search. You can back out, search on different criteria or for a different artist, and add a few of THOSE to your list. In the end, you can review and edit your "list".

When you're ready to order, the system will finally ask you for your name, shipping address, credit card number, etc. Then it displays your order listing everything you didn't edit out of your list, your shipping address, credit card information, etc. You can then press Y to process the order, Q to abandon it, or uniquely the minus (-) key. This is something we'd never seen before and it is THE way to review data entered on a computer. You can press the minus key repeatedly to "back up" through each field you entered or the ENTER key to move forward. In this way, you can back up, make changes, move forward, change your mind, backup, change something else, endlessly. When you finally have everything to suit you, the Y enters the order. A week and a half later, Bob Seeger, Rod Stewart, or whoever else shows up in your mailbox.

CDC doesn't stock CDs at all. They have four different suppliers they order from and a very smart ordering program. It sometimes happens that they can't get the CD you ordered. But according to Lovett, they're hitting 95.19% over the past year. The prices are typically 15-25% lower than list price, about what the "sale price" at a music store would be.

The difference is, that's CDCs price on a selection of 49,000 titles, not just on the loss leader of the day.

The system also has some information on the industry. The Billboard top 10 by sales for Non-Classical, R&B, Country, Classical, Cross Over, Jazz, Contemporary Jazz, and Latin music is always available. They also list the complete Grammy winner list for all those categories from 1988 through 1991. We found a fascinating info file on the current debate in the industry over packaging. Apparently, some of the labels want to do away with the "jewel box" package and go to a paper and plastic jobber called Eco-Pak that is probably NOT as ecologically friendly as it sounds.

The database is updated weekly, but you can actually download the whole thing online and shop OFFLINE with a shareware package provided, if you want to save on long distance charges. According to Lovett, they are continuing to enhance the database and have just signed an agreement with a company called Phono-Log that will allow them to add individual song titles to the database. You will be able to enter a song title, and it will display each CD and artist that contains that song. We foresee a call where we can find every rendition of Pachelbel Canon in D available. And actually, we want them all.

There was a function where you could leave a message to the operators, but other than that and the database download area, there were no messaging areas, file areas, or the normal BBS accouterments. The system is very tightly focused as an online catalog of CDs and bar-none anywhere, it is THE best example of an online mall type function we've ever seen. It's plain, but the ease of use, speed, and functionality comprises a mark to meet for online order processing. We meant to dial this system to have a look. But we made five new CDs show up in our mailbox in the process. Shipping on orders less than \$100 is \$3 and free on orders over \$100. Compact Disc Connection, 1016 East El

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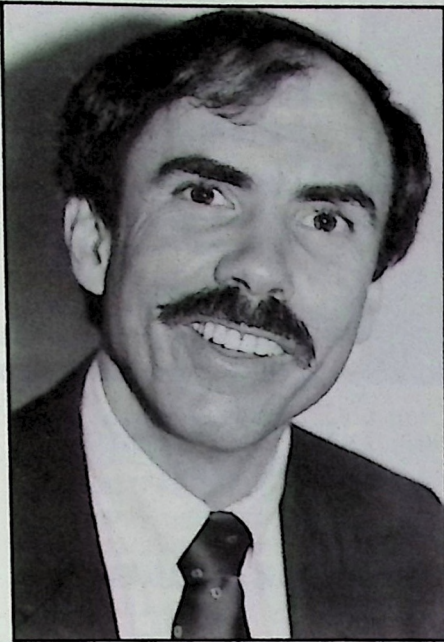
## FEDERAL WHISTLE-BLOWER BBS

By Julia L. Wilkinson

In this era of Congressmen bouncing checks in "Rubbergate" and other assorted government scandals, it's comforting to know that someone has created a way to anonymously report instances of federal wrongdoing. The U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice, and Agriculture has created a vehicle for tip-offs to waste, fraud, and abuse in federal agencies, programs, contracts, and grants: the **Federal Whistle-blower BBS** at (202)225-5527. Congressman Bob Wise from West Virginia is the sysop. According to Subcommittee Chief Council Robert Gellman, the board has received over 1000 calls since it started in December, 1991. Some callers are curious browsers who want to see what's available, and others want to discuss policy issues. "The log of legitimate tips worthy of further review is somewhere in the sixties," Gellman said.

The idea for the BBS came about because the Committee figured it would be "a good vehicle for disseminating information," said Gellman. The Committee does a lot of work promoting information and technology as a means of keeping the public informed. Repr. Wise (D-WV) said in announcing the board, "The Whistleblower Bulletin Board will bring a new dimension to congressional oversight. It will provide an alternate means for federal employees and others with information on waste, fraud and





*Congressman Bob Wise*

abuse to contact congressional investigators. We will bring whistleblowing into the computer age."

The board is being run on a surplus IBM XT computer, using Remote Bulletin Board System (RBBS) software.

Noted on the board is that they are more interested in conduct involving significant amounts of federal funds or MAJOR instances of wrongdoing. "We are less interested in complaints that your boss left early yesterday," Gellman said. However, when in doubt, the BBS encourages tipsters to report the matter and let the Committee decide. Priority is also given to matters that affect health or safety. As an example of wrongdoing worthy of a tip-off, the board gives the instance of somebody who arranges official travel so he can watch his college team play.

The BBS got a lot of attention when it was first announced. The committee posted messages on various BBS's announcing its availability, and John Dvorak wrote about it in his column in the March 17 issue of PC Magazine.

Since the board is intended solely to allow whistle-blowers to post private notes to alert the Subcommittee to waste, fraud and abuse, there isn't much

to see for someone who calls just to poke around. There are no public files available for download.

The board notes that although the contents of all communications are confidential, callers may use an alias, as the name they use to sign on may be visible to other users. There is no Caller-ID service on the bulletin board's incoming line, and incoming calls are not traced. "Each caller must consider the possibility that a call to this board is being recorded or traced at the source of the call," according to the board's signon message.

"You do NOT have to give your name or identify yourself in any way. But you should call again after you have left a message. Use the same name you used the first time and see if there is an answer for you. Use the READ MAIL TO ME command. This permits continuing communications so that we can ask you for more information or clarification. Allow a few days for your message to be read.

## **THIS MONTH: BULLETIN BOARDS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM**

This month's featured list comes to us from **Gerald Janes** of Berkshire, a near suburb to London. Janes runs a company he calls **Hawkastle Ltd**, and it has made some progress introducing bulletin boards technologies to businesses in the heart of the Empire as a solution to communications needs. He acts as distributor for a variety of BBS software packages, modems, etc. and moves a few copies of *Boardwatch* in the area each month as well.

Janes went to some effort to provide this superb list of some **643** systems operating in the United Kingdom, with location and BBS operator. To reach any of these boards from the United States, dial **011** to get an international switch, followed by **44** (the country code for England) and the telephone number listed for the BBS of interest.

### **Corporate takeovers need not be hostile!!**



#### **We are in the business of running corporate BBS's.**

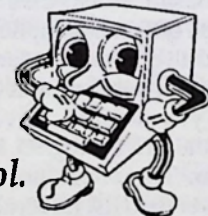
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# BULLETIN BOARDS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

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*TRACK 83* ATARI ST	0953-851351	James Partner	Norfolk
=CHICKENSHACK=	0594-544865	Lee Bunker	Gloucestershire
MERKINLODGE	0928-714460	Simon Dowson	Cheshire
MERKINSTEAD	061-434-7059	Philip Crookes	Greater Manchester
01 FOR AMIGA	071-247-9240	Tony Miller	London
02 FOR AMIGA	071-377-1358	Sue Miller	London
061 FOR AMIGA	061-799-4922	Andy Gilo	Greater Manchester
2001	061-928-8801	Chris Gottlieb	Cheshire
2010 (L.I.F.E.)	0254-56475	Rob Schofield	Lancashire
3 BELOW FORUM	081-312-2123	Dave Powell	London
ABBEY	0202-873911	Chris Durham	Dorset
ABNORMAL ORBIT	071-792-3738	Oliver Bell	London
ACADEMIC'S	021-705-2906	John Kelly	West Midlands
ACCENT	0444-870559	Nigel Hewitt	West Sussex
ADULLAMS CAVE BBS	0702-78330	Tim Coles	Essex
ADVANCE OPUS	0482-586285	Eric Sparrow	Humberside
AIRTEL REMOTE ACCESS	0342-717600	Adrian Pop	West Sussex
AIS SUPPORT LOCATION	0703-333568	Mike Trump	Hampshire
AIX-386	0905-754127	Jon Brooks	Worcestershire
AIX-386	0905-754151	Jon Brooks	Worcestershire
ALAN SOLOMONS BOARD	0494-724946	Alan Solomon	Buckinghamshire
ALCHEMIST	0666-504597	Bob Henson	Gloucestershire
ALMA BBS	0787-277745	Paulo Lopes	Essex
ALMAC PC BOARD	0324-665460	Gordon Sibbald	Central Scotland
ALTERNATE REALITY	0352-856626	Jeremy Goslin	Clywd
ALTERNATIVE REALITY	0959-76695	Robert Walker	London
ALTERNATIVE V/DATA	081-761-8220	Danny Thomas	London
AMIGA CONNECTION	081-503-0593	Paul Roffey	London
AMIGA INFORMATION	0444-441308	Nick Lello	West Sussex
AMIGA SHACK	0737-361178	Peter Debono	Surrey
AMIGA SOUTH-EAST	0293-28464	Kevin Cannell	West Sussex
AMLINK BBS	021-778-5868	Martin Creighan	West Midlands
AMTECH SUPPORT BBS	0202-294716	Yorick Phoenix	Dorset
ANDROMEDA GALAXY	0243-379430	John Cheyne	Hampshire
APPARITION BBS	0268-289105	Bill Compton	Essex
APPLE CRACKERS	0268-780724	Mike Jones	Essex
APPLE CRACKERS	0268-781318	Mike Jones	Essex
APRICOT TECH SUPPORT	021-717-0455	John Krzesinski	West Midlands
ARCADE BBS	081-655-4412	Dave Coleman	London
ARCADIA	0246-236510	Phil Clifford	Derbyshire
ARCPORT	0252-737065	David Joyce	Surrey
ARENA	0625-539063	Andrew Stephens	Northamptonshire
ARGUS II	091-490-0327	Graham Denman	Tyne & Wear
ARGUS PROJECT	091-413-6859	Graham Denman	Tyne & Wear
ARKHAM OPUS	081-952-5128	Nigel Hardy	London
ASPECTS	061-792-0260	Dave Gorski	Greater Manchester
ASPEN BBS	081-893-2359	Gary Welland	London
ATAVACHRON	0480-412884	Stuart McKnight	Cambridge
ATLANTIS BBS	0452-330238	Alan Walker	Gloucestershire
ATLANTIS BBS	0452-330244	Alan Walker	Gloucestershire
ATTIC	081-308-0466	Dave Isom	London
AULD REEKIE	031-663-9924	Stephen Baird	Lothian
AUREAL	0858-466594	Eddy Ralphson	Leicestershire
AVALON NORTHEAST	091-564-0009	Chris Tyson	Tyne & Wear
AXIS POINT BBS	081-367-7685	Ken Waddon	London
B5 TBBS	0455-557261	Hugh Allan	Leicestershire
BABBLE	0532-636037	Joe Gonzalez	West Yorkshire
BABBS TOWER	0394-276306	Tony Game	Suffolk
BANAT BOARD	081-783-1151	Nik Middleton	London
BAR	0904-642560	Darren Soothill	North Yorkshire
BARNABAS THE CARING BBS	0708-70068	John Barton	Essex
BARNEY'S RUBBLE	021-441-1801	Jon Morby	West Midlands
BAS OPUS	0256-768331	Graham Butler	Hampshire
BBS09	0705-736025	Jon Dunster	Hampshire
BBZ	081-663-3732	Robert Smith	London
BEACON (11PM-8AM ONLY)	0494-672806	Michael Barnes	Buckinghamshire
BEEB-TEC	0472-276476	Mark Kirkbride	Humberside
BELFAST AMIGA BBS	0232-852407	Kieran Sullivan	Northern Ireland
BETELGEUSE 5	0463-231339	Hugh Allan	Highland
BEYOND BELIEF	0842-787898	Jason Robson	Unknown
BIG BANG BURGER BAR	081-420-6356	Paul Roberts	London
BIKE SHOP	0705-827764	Dave Horton	Hampshire
BITMAP BROTHERS	0245-413728	M. Montgomery	Essex
BIXBOX	0634-200931	Terry Dansey	Unknown
BLACKPOOL COLLEGE OPUS	0253-57941	Ian Ingleby	Lancashire
BLANDFORD BBS	0258-455117	Bob Weeks	Dorset
BLINDIN' BBS	01-764-0954	M. Duncanson	London
BLITTER	0292-671638	Derek Stracey	Unknown
BLUE LABEL BBS	0358-43507	Philip Ritchie	Grampian
BOAR'S NEST	0793-724195	Terry McBride	Wiltshire
BOB'S BAUD	051-638-0639	Bob Fraser	Merseyside
BODY MATTERS	071-603-7581	Harry McAleer	London
BOGGIN	0532-483563	Russell Green	West Yorkshire
BOOG BB	0252-626233	Jeremy Browne	Hampshire
BOROUGHBRIDGE QBBS	0423-324532	Pak-Shing Poon	Unknown
BOZZIMACCOOII	061-483-7307	Paul Dickie	Greater Manchester
BRADFORD BB	0274-480452	Hussain/Sadiq	West Yorkshire
BRAINDEAD OPUS	0823-254352	S. Roberts	Somerset
BREAKTHROUGH BBS	051-734-5817	Jim Hamilton	Merseyside
BRITISH SOFTWARE LIBRARY	051-924-6550	Andrew Goodwin	Merseyside
BUZ BOARD	081-202-9175	Geoffrey Zub	London
BUZBY'S GRAPEVINE	041-762-2000	Raymond Orr	Strathclyde
BYTE BACK!	081-959-8105	Mike Mindel	London
BYTE BUSTERS	0480-406261	Ritchie Dakin	Cambridge
CANONBURY CASTLE	071-704-2535	Michael Williams	London
CANOPUS	0977-620980	Nick Roth	West Yorkshire
CARAVAN	0435-872288	Mark Cole	East Sussex
CARGO BBS	0420-475462	Colin Wynn	Unknown
CASTLE BBS	0230-25828	Neil Gossage	Unknown
CASTLE EDEN BBS	091-518-1058	Andrew Lackenby	Durham
CATS BOARD	0628-824852	Mike Corby	Berkshire
CATWEAZLE BBS	081-428-9476	Trevor Riley	Hertfordshire
CCL4	0482-655798	James Lawson	Humberside
CEDAR SCHOOL	0703-741858	George Cordner	Hampshire
CENTRAL BBS	021-711-1451	Lindsay Reid	West Midlands
CHALLENGER	021-445-3530	Richard Whitehand	West Midlands
CHANCELLORS DEN	0795-530961	Denis Bennett	Kent
CHANCELLORS DEN	0795-538359	Denis Bennett	Kent
CHATTERBOX BBS	0732-870941	Mick Spice	Kent
CHEAM AMIGA BBS	081-644-8714	Jonathan Hamon	London
CHEMI-CALL	0322-278652	Steve Gooding	Kent
CHEQUERS	0622-891308	Matthew Miles	Kent
CHIBA CITY	0501-44262	David McIntosh	Tyne & Wear
CHIPBOARD	0532-320225	Steve Greenwood	West Yorkshire
CHRONOS' LAIR	021-744-5561	Colin Earl	West Midlands
CIX	081-399-5252	Frank Thomley	London
CLAPHAM JUNCTION	0234-213510	Mark Lewis	Bedfordshire
CLINICAL CHEMISTRY BB	0867-368123	Jonathan Kay	Oxfordshire
CLOUD NINE	081-806-7802	Allan Harte	London
CO-OP BOARD	0705-754851	Geoff Wade	Hampshire
CO-OP BOARD	081-316-6488	Mike Tew	London
CO-OP BOARD (CRS)	061-832-1561	Frank Dent	Greater Manchester
CO-OP BOARD (NICC)	0509-826339	Len Burch	Leicestershire
CO-OP BOARD B MOUTH	0202-532701	John Mileham	Dorset
CO-OP MANCHESTER	061-8321961	Frank Dent	Greater Manchester
COASTLINE BBS	0745-855959	John Timmis	Clywd
CODEOMATIC-01-4-PARAGON	0472-360811	Oliver Smith	Unknown
COMMUNTEL DEMO	081-968-7402	Dom Wright	London
COMMUNITY CENTRE	0705-871434	George Cordner	Hampshire
COMPASSII NODE 1 [UKRAS]	0695-571117	Barry Phillips	Lancashire
COMPASSII NODE 2 [UKRAS]	0695-571118	Barry Phillips	Lancashire
COMPUTACENTER OPUS	071-928-2005	Peter Bowyer	London
COMPUTERS 4 CHRIST	0926-428294	David Melville	Unknown
CONNECTIONS	081-903-1309	Steve Pursey	London
CONNER BBS	071-409-7597	Eddie Seymour	London
CONNEX	071-431-3922	Shyam Hegde	London
CONSETT FORUM 1992	0207-506179	John Caulfield	Durham
COOL COMPUTING	0762-841833	Peter McCracken	Unknown
CORBY TOWN BBS	0536-400195	Felix Harrigan	Northamptonshire
CORNWALL GATE OPUS	0752-848806	Chrs Conyon	Corwall
CP/M USER GROUP	0753-868196	Peter Catley	Berkshire
CRITICAL MASS BBS	0727-56939	Grahame Treiving	Hertfordshire
CROWN GREEN	071-245-1512	Jim Brookbank	London
CRYSTAL JUNCTION	0384-441929	Bert Isley	West Midlands
CRYSTAL TOWER	081-447-8244	Chris Gower	London
CSLBB	0273-571457	Mark Eaton	East Sussex
CV DATABASE BB	0427-810211	Martin Jones	Lincolnshire
CYMRUTEL	0492-49194	Ian Woodroffe	Clywd
CYNOTEL	081-346-2816	Julian Sinclair	London
D-TERM BBS	0704-79873	David McGarry	Merseyside
D.I.E.	061-434-9907	Si Thornton	Greater Manchester
DAILY INFORMATION	0865-53999	Simon Barber	Oxfordshire
DAMBUSTERS	0203-333195	Michael Brown	Unknown
DARCWORLD IES	08675-77724	Tom Crossland	Oxfordshire
DARK CRYSTAL	081-207-2989	Phil Day	London
DARK SIDE	0446-33729	Mark Pngg	South Glamorgan
DARKHAVEN	0604-413716	'Pandrogas'	Northamptonshire
DATA NETWORK	081-478-5464	'Singham'	London
DATASEL/WANDERLAND	081-680-5330	Ted Greene	London
DATASEL/WANDERLAND	081-681-8081	Ted Greene	London
DATASERVE SYSTEMS BBS	0795-538357	Graham Jenkins	Kent
DATASOFT OPUS	0460-54615	Paul Swift	Somerset



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DAVY JONES' LOCKER.....	051-630-2972	Dave Femant	Merseyside
DBASE USER GROUP.....	0532-842213	Harry Watson	West Yorkshire
DCE BOARD.....	0296-88165	Mike Moysse	Buckinghamshire
DCS.....	081-879-7578	Shane Nolan	London
DDLK LINK LINE.....	0484-681753	Stanley Sykes	West Yorkshire
DEAD ON ARRIVAL.....	061-707-2008	Christopher Seeley	Greater Manchester
DEMO FACTORY BBS.....	0892-516304	Ian Muiridge	Kent
DESERT.....	0244-550332	Peter Duffield	Cheshire
DETRITUS' REST.....	0734-314191	Tom Snow	Berkshire
DIAMOND OPUS.....	0273-846504	Paul Hughes	West Sussex
DIGGERTEL #1.....	0925-411265	John Balshaw	Cheshire
DIGITAL MATRIX.....	021-705-5187	Clive Warner	West Midlands
DIRECT-LINE 1.....	081-841-1847	Manners/Johnson	London
DIRECT-LINE 2.....	081-842-2030	Steve Manners	London
DISABLED DATA LINK GROUP.....	0502-518274	Cliff Jones	Suffolk
DISU PC.....	0742-729621	Phil Green	South Yorkshire
DLG SW.....	0242-260685	Keith Taylor	Gloucestershire
DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY.....	071-538-2143	Ian Bavin	London
DOCKLANDS PROJECT.....	071-537-9854	John Clift	London
DOG HOUSE.....	0434-608324	Ian Dodd	Northumberland
DOMAIN BBS.....	081-395-8372	David Boardman	London
DORTEC BBS.....	0297-24469	Steve Townsley	Unknown
DRAGON'S TOWER.....	081-202-0709	Unknown	Unknown
DREGAL REMOTEACCESS.....	0236-747393	Mark Anderson	Grampian
DTP USER.....	081-656-5190	Steve Dick	London
DUN EIDEANN DUNGEON.....	031-669-2974	Iain Patterson	Lothian
DUNATHAD.....	0496-2426	Alan Hunter	Strathclyde
DWARFEN REALM.....	0376-501036	P. Jones (Thanatos)	Essex
EATON SCHOOL.....	0603-507216	Paul Welbank	Norfolk
EBBS-1.....	0274-541156	Craig Evenson	West Yorkshire
EDDIES BBS.....	0635-71324	Eddie Seymour	Berkshire
EMERGENCY PLANNING INFO.....	091-221-0108	TWF&CDA	Tyne & Wear
EMPIRICAL RESEARCH.....	0543-675158	Andrew Lester	Staffordshire
EMPHYRION.....	0792-580781	David Westron	West Glamorgan
END TO END.....	0376-84644	Glyn Cornfield	Unknown
END ZONE.....	0524-752245	Adam Pumell	Lancashire
ENGINEERS WORKBENCH.....	051-327-7036	Bob Clarke	Merseyside
ENIGMA VARIATIONS.....	0905-795002	Sandie Franchi	Worcestershire
ENTERPRISE BBS.....	0453-511112	Lawrence Freeman	Gloucestershire
ESSEX AMIGA.....	0277-233354	Mark Kidd	Essex
EUREKA GATEWAYS.....	0603-250689	C Wright/R. Miah	Norfolk
EUREKA II.....	081-683-0629	Alan Glover	London
EXCALIBUR'S EDGE.....	0323-844455	Mike Atkinson	East Sussex
EXCHANGE SW CENTRE.....	0767-50511	Alan Walker	Cambridge
EXPERT EUROPE.....	071-792-1389	Stuart Fenton	London
EYE-2.....	0525-715789	Peter Nunn	Bedfordshire
FAINT BREEZE.....	021-788-1754	Norman Mollineux	West Midlands
FAL OPUS.....	0736-794827	Theo Harper	Cornwall
FALCON BBS.....	081-527-4165	Steve Gannon	London
FAMILY SKELETONS UK.....	0480-812097	Bill Hamilton	Cambridge
FAULTY TOWERS.....	0235-535113	Ron Goodman	Oxfordshire
FEN TIGER.....	0954-210692	Peter Rowell	Cambridge
FIDO AT ODYSSEY.....	0482-870919	James Willmot	Humberside
FIDO UK1.....	0734-713909	Rod Smallwood	Berkshire
FINAL FRONTIER.....	0792-771916	Steven Howlett	West Glamorgan
FINGERPHONE.....	071-253-3064	Phil Crewe	London
FIRM.....	0273-513872	A. Baker/ D. Coxall	East Sussex
FLIGHT OF THE FRUITBAT.....	0279-656041	Ian Cottee	Hertfordshire
FLIGHT PATH.....	081-759-1957	Gary Smith	London
FOCUS TBBS.....	0303-42690	Quentin Wright	Kent
FOCUS UK.....	0905-774477	Sandie Franchi	Worcestershire
FORTH VIEW.....	031-660-3474	Roger Gregory	Lothian
FORUM 88.....	0482-805225	Frederick Brown	Humberside
FOURTH DIMENSION.....	0202-600305	Wayne Weedon	Dorset
FOX'S DEN BBS.....	0689-827085	Barry Freeman	Kent
FREE FOR ALL.....	0763-261624	Tony Roll	Cambridge
FREE NET ONE.....	0767-51972	Unknown	Bedfordshire
FRIDAY THE 13TH.....	0642-224833	John Whitney	Unknown
FRONTIERS BBS.....	0737-778607	Dave Parker	Surrey
FUZZY LOGIC.....	0634-200707	Phil Piddell	Kent
GABBS.....	0705-524805	Stephen Cole	Hampshire
GALLERY QBBS.....	081-847-2795	David Welsman	London
GAME OVER.....	0752-848070	Seb Tomasini	Cornwall
GAMES ONLINE.....	0273-699200	Unknown	East Sussex
GAS LAMP.....	0706-358331	Ian Strachan	Greater Manchester
GCHQ.....	0372-52026	Paul O'Neill	Unknown
GEORDIES RETREAT.....	091-268-1807	George Keys	Tyne & Wear
GLASTERLAW BBS.....	0241-2793	Frank Peterson	Tayside
GNFIDO.....	071-608-1899	Mike Jensen	London
GNOME AT HOME.....	081-888-8894	Glyn Phillips	London
GODS.....	081-994-9119	Lap of the Gods	London
GOOBTEL.....	0602-706307	Karim Ratib	Nottinghamshire
GOOD LIFE.....	081-541-0187	David Debono	London
GOPHERIT'S BOX.....	061-320-3208	Kevin Birch	Greater Manchester
GOURMET.....	0296-398166	David Banes	Buckinghamshire
GRAINSTORE.....	0905-770198	Simon Schaanning	Unknown
GRAYKARN TECH SUPPORT.....	051-486-4354	Bill Philip	Merseyside
GRENADIER.....	0825-762803	Ian McCabe	East Sussex
GRINI.....	051-931-4271	Ben Goodwin	Merseyside
GRIZZLY THE THIRD - OS/2.....	0772-828975	Colin Adams	Lancashire
HACKER'S DELIGHT.....	0702-523853	Arnold Shone	Unknown
HALFWITS BBS.....	0272-340310	Pat Crabb	Avon
HAMNET.....	0482-465150	Joe Lawrence	Humberside
HARLEQUIN.....	061-945-3612	Tony Grimshaw	Greater Manchester
HASTINGS BBS.....	0424-717919	Andy Williams	East Sussex
HAVEN.....	0932-345735	Colin Crawford	Surrey
HAWK'S CASTLE.....	0344-411621	Gerald Janes	Berkshire
HAWK'S CASTLE.....	0344-869277	Gerald Janes	Berkshire
HAZZARD BB.....	071-737-0505	Ben Amure	London
HEALTH-DATA.....	081-986-4360	Dr Chris Dobbing	London
HEARTBEAT.....	0734-352033	Sue Waring	Berkshire
HI IQ.....	081-310-6179	Mark Alexander	London
HOBBIT'S ARMPIT.....	0772-735122	Dave Churm	Lancashire
HOLE IN THE NET.....	0229-813196	Dale Anson	Cumbria
HONEYMONSTER BBS.....	0760-337981	David Elkins	Norfolk
HOOVERS RETREAT.....	071-962-1238	Frank Toohy	London
HOT-AIR OPUS.....	0579-70347	Mitch Davies	Devon
HOTEL BBS.....	0634-831389	Kit Watson	Kent
HUMBER BRIDGE.....	0482-850785	John Dibnah	Humberside
ID2.....	0903-700771	Tony Cooper	West Sussex
INDEX III.....	0602-85566	Simon Gledhill	Nottinghamshire
INDEX LINKED BBS.....	0227-770403	Carl Ricketts	Kent
INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY.....	051-733-1135	John Luxton	Merseyside
INFOCOMM UK.....	0895-72021	Gary Weston	London
INFOSOFIT BBS.....	0642-764245	Eddy Matthews	Unknown
INFOTEL.....	0737-766027	Bob Garbutt	Surrey
INT #21H.....	0491-875104	Dylan Smith	Oxfordshire
INTEL ACE.....	0832-73003	Nick Waltham	Northamptonshire
INTRANSIT BBS.....	0932-247628	Karl Asha	Unknown
ISLINGTON BBS.....	071-704-0760	Edward Cowling	London
IT CONTACTS.....	0482-500286	Robin Lamming	Humberside
IVORY TOWER.....	0245-415321	'Jumbo'	Essex
JABULON BB.....	0254-59352	Tony Hopwood	Lancashire
JACKIE'S PLACE.....	091-388-3078	Jackie Surtees	Durham
JBSB.....	0534-37779	Paul Crick	Channel Islands
JERSEY OPUS.....	0534-39389	Hugh Ashbom	Channel Islands
JOCKS AWAY!.....	031-225-5368	J. Ferrier/D. Black	Lothian
JOLLY FISHERMAN.....	0754-67796	Marlin Parker	Lincolnshire
JOLLY ROGER BBS.....	081-742-1640	Roger Seaward	London
JOLLY ROGER II.....	081-995-5829	Roger Seaward	London
JUSAVO.....	0324-32414	Gordon Coulter	Central Scotland
JUST THE PLACE.....	0705-258694	David Mather	Hampshire
K-WOOD.....	0608-83458	Clive Waller	Unknown
KARNAK.....	0604-705669	Steve Brecknock	Northamptonshire
KASHMIR'S BBS.....	0472-347882	Unknown	Humberside
KEISHA BBS.....	051-270-1635	Ken Dalton	Merseyside
KERNOW OPUS.....	0209-821670	Dave Randle	Cornwall
KEY-BOARD.....	0908-668398	Ron Meldrum	Buckinghamshire
KIDLINGTON BBS.....	0865-56703	Stephen Bird	Unknown
KING OF THE CASTLE.....	0233-620228	Chris King	Kent
KINGDOM OF GREYHAWK.....	0332-756414	Alan Coats	Derbyshire
KIRKLEES OPUS.....	0484-665415	John Fanchamps	West Yorkshire
KLEOPATRA'S PYRAMID.....	0602-384281	'Kleo' Hofton	Nottinghamshire
KNEPTUNE BBS.....	061-777-8088	Peter Thompson	Greater Manchester
KOMPUTER KNOWLEDGE 1.....	0296-668148	Andrew Eaves	Buckinghamshire
KOMPUTER KNOWLEDGE 2.....	0296-668141	Andrew Eaves	Buckinghamshire
LABYRINTH.....	051-724-4458	Paul Kenealy	Merseyside
LAMPLIGHT QBBS.....	0705-811531	John Lambon	Hampshire
LASER TBBS.....	0532-438430	Mark Glennon	West Yorkshire
LASERDOME BBS.....	0272-584352	Mathew Adlard	Avon
LAU'S QL BB.....	081-751-6096	Laurence Reeves	London
LIBERAL LEANINGS.....	0252-375227	Martyn Wilson	Hampshire
LIGHTFINGER'S PLACE.....	0202-485723	Richard Davis	Hampshire
LINELIGHT.....	0580-212043	Gary Davies	Kent
LINX BBS.....	0522-511277	Mike Wilson	Lincolnshire
LIQUORICE ALLSORTS.....	0633-279985	Gill Cobley	Gwent
LOFT BBS.....	0442-230460	Martin Carter	Hertfordshire
LOG ON IN TYNDALE.....	0434-606639	John Rawson	Northumberland
LONDON BB.....	081-455-6607	Daniel Wilder	London
LONDON CITY MAG.....	081-468-7648	Brian Green	London
LONDON CONNEXION.....	081-667-1313	Kevin Mathews	London
LONDON GUEST HOUSE BBS.....	081-748-0974	Richard Pike	London



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LONDON METROPOLIS.....081-519-1055 Terry Sinclair.....London  
 LONDON UNDERGROUND.....081-423-2233 Brian Robinson.....London  
 LOOK NORTHWEST.....0282-698380 Neil Metcalfe.....Lancashire  
 LOONY BIN.....0703-787489 Mike Conway.....Hampshire  
 LOOSE NOOSE BBS.....081-659-5469 Clayton Whitehead.....London  
 LOST ARC.....0392-412370 Helen Rogers.....Devon  
 M-G-M.....0865-882872 Garfield-Middleton.....Oxfordshire  
 M.A.B.B.S.....0274-588924 Joel Jeffrey.....West Sussex  
 MABBS.....021-444-8972 Mark Caro.....West Midlands  
 MACTEL HQ.....0602-455497 D. Nicholson-cole.....Nottinghamshire  
 MACTEL METRO.....081-543-8019 John Lockwood.....London  
 MACTEL PHOENIX.....0473-610139 Paul Beaumont.....Suffolk  
 MADNESS BBS.....0603-300947 Ted Jackson.....Norfolk  
 MAGIC CASTLE BBS.....021-430-3761 Mick Coleman.....West Midlands  
 MAGIC MUSHROOM.....0361-83641 Steve Noon.....Unknown-  
 MAGIC MUTATION BBS.....051-722-4451 Glyn Davies.....Merseyside  
 MAGICKNET-UK.....0223-324997 Peter Elliott.....Unknown-  
 MAGNUM BBS.....0274-547006 Keyop Troy.....West Yorkshire  
 MAGPIE BBS.....0695-20476 Paul Cooper.....Lancashire  
 MAGRATHEA.....0376-24402 Dom Wright.....Essex  
 MANOR QBBS.....0980-863031 Peter Jowett.....Wiltshire  
 MARCTEL.....081-346-7150 Marcus Anselm.....London  
 MATRIX.....051-255-0225 Ken Farnen.....Merseyside  
 MBBS LEONFIELD.....0964-550745 Martin Taylor.....Humberside  
 MBBS MITCHAM IIC.....081-648-0018 Martin Newham.....London  
 MEDWAY CONFERENCING.....0634-280031 Terry Ebdon.....Unknown-  
 MEKTRONICS.....061-773-7739 Brian Benster.....Greater Manchester  
 MERCIANET.....0203-611943 Ken Fryer.....West Midlands  
 MERLIN BBS.....0443-834179 Stephen Sandles.....Gwent  
 METNET TRIANGLE.....0482-473871 Jon Witty.....Humberside  
 MGBBS.....0443-733343 Paul Sengupta.....Mid Glamorgan  
 MICRO LIVE BB.....081-567-6500 David Watkins.....London  
 MICRO UPDATE.....081-677-1529 Jonathan Camp.....London  
 MICRODEAL.....0726-65422 Mark Prigg.....Cornwall  
 MICROLOG.....0422-711921 Martin Holt.....West Yorkshire  
 MICROVIEWI.....081-509-0729 'The Controller'.....London  
 MIDGET GEM.....0748-834836 John & Dawn Laffey.....North Yorkshire  
 MIDNIGHT CALLER.....0633-279243 Mike Joyce.....Gwent  
 MIND BOGGLES.....0362-762868 Toby Simpson.....Norfolk  
 MINDER'S DEN.....0293-565393 Iain Graves.....West Sussex  
 MININET-3 BB.....0642-672813 Mini Mansell.....Cleveland  
 MIRACOM TECH SUPPORT.....0473-232540 Paul Garrett.....Suffolk  
 MIRAGE.....061-652-1242 Ian Battersby.....Greater Manchester  
 MIRROR INFO EXCHANGE.....0628-810889 Lee Evans.....Buckinghamshire  
 MIRRORWORLD/QUEST 1.....0883-844044 Pip Cordrey.....Surrey  
 MIRRORWORLD/QUEST 1.....0883-844164 Pip Cordrey.....Surrey  
 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE.....0602-654329 Keith Barnes.....Nottinghamshire  
 MISTS OF AVALON.....0268-543689 Steve Dixon.....Essex  
 MK BOARD.....0908-671289 Mark Hammond.....Buckinghamshire  
 MKBBS.....0908-504556 Graham Thompson.....Buckinghamshire  
 MONUSCI.....045-453197 Mike Gove.....Avon  
 MORAY BBS.....0343-830315 Mark Parlour.....Grampian  
 MORE SUMMER WINE.....0274-851027 Nigel Beaumont.....West Yorkshire  
 MOTOR EXCHANGE.....0484-435314 Kevin Ecclesby.....West Yorkshire  
 MUCKLE ROCK.....0542-32225 Alan Milne.....Grampian  
 MULTI-BBS.....041-649-9043 Gary Tanner.....Strathclyde  
 MURDOCH'S HANGOUT.....021-711-2620 Jeremy Gumbley.....West Midlands  
 MURKY CAVERNS.....081-426-9386 Melvyn Burchell.....London  
 MUSIC STUDIO.....0926-403904 Paul Urmston.....Warwickshire  
 MWCFE.....0926-421844 Steve Murray.....Unknown-  
 MY LITTLE PHONEY.....0793-849044 SteVeN Green.....Wiltshire  
 N.I.B. BBS.....0272-535610 Tony Jones.....Avon  
 NAT COMP SECURITY ASS.....0392-433566 Brian Sterrett.....Devon  
 NET FILES CO-ORD.....051-428-8924 Peter Tootill.....Merseyside  
 NEW WAVE BBS.....061-839-5381 Colin Jones.....Greater Manchester  
 NEXTEL HQ.....0844-28660 Paul Beaumont.....Oxfordshire  
 NFI BBS.....0983-525671 Tony Knott.....Hampshire  
 NICC LEICS.....0509-856339 Len Burch.....Leicestershire  
 NICC MID-WEST.....0341-250377 Ivor Moody.....Unknown-  
 NIGHT HAWK.....0329-45384 Robert Leach.....Hampshire  
 NIGHT OWL'S MAILER.....0509-673241 F W Dajani.....Leicestershire  
 NIGHTINGALE'S BBS.....0473-272447 Danny Roberts.....Suffolk  
 NITE LIFE.....071-976-6807 Neil Jelley.....London  
 NO ESCORT REQUIRED.....081-200-3817 John Callin.....London  
 NO.1 BBS.....081-958-1689 Seb Hardman.....London  
 NOAH BBS.....0272-572322 Bob Volsey.....Avon  
 NON BABT APPROVED.....0268-510495 Keith Bloom.....Essex  
 NORTH OF ACHERNAR.....0424-433816 Steve Anderson.....West Sussex  
 NORTH WALES BB.....0978-88372 Nick Cunah.....Clwyd  
 NORTH YORKS QBBS.....0423-868065 Michael Wigmore.....North Yorkshire  
 NORTHERN LIGHTS.....0768-773685 John Robinson.....Cumbria

NORWICH ONION BBS.....0603-423305 Adrian Groth.....Norfolk  
 NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY.....0602-476175 Ian Sherman.....Nottinghamshire  
 NOVA.....0455-553371 R. Carrington-Jones-Unknown-  
 NOVA-NET.....0274-370760 Simon Bayntun.....West Yorkshire  
 NUMBER 42.....081-643-1015 Dave Arkley.....Surrey  
 ODD-BALL.....081-679-2583 John Davison.....London  
 OLDFIELD HOUSE SCHOOL.....081-7830207 Mike Burlaigh.....Surrey  
 OLDHAM ACCESS CENTRE.....061-627-0630 W. Winterbottom.....Greater Manchester  
 OLIVE GROVE.....091-228-0427 Peter Scargill.....Tyne & Wear  
 ON THE BEACH.....0273-600996 Marc Bowden.....West Sussex  
 ONLINE SUPPORT.....0254-872677 Mike Robinson.....Unknown-  
 OPEN ACCESS.....081-427-3974 Unknown.....London  
 ORGANIC GARDEN.....081-464-3305 Bob Campion.....London  
 OUT OF THE BLUE.....081-668-7667 Alex Comerford.....London  
 OWL SERVICE.....0532-605876 Malcolm Arnold.....West Yorkshire  
 P & P DISTRIBUTION.....0706-832437 Stephen Mitchener.....Lancashire  
 P C FORUM LINE 1.....0322-335348 Keith Wassell.....Kent  
 P C FORUM LINE 2.....0322-287842 Keith Wassell.....Kent  
 P C FORUM LINE 3.....0322-350372 Keith Wassell.....Kent  
 P C I U G HQ.....0732-770539 Andy Kelly.....Kent  
 P C LINK.....0375-674046 Alan Maylin.....Essex  
 P-SQUARE BBS.....081-533-0348 Paul Pywell.....West Sussex  
 P.H.A.C.S.....0752-361291 Dave Russell.....Devon  
 PACIFIC LIGHTNING.....0732-845338 Colin Spice.....Kent  
 PACKET BBS.....081-547-1479 Ted Batts.....London  
 PACKET PLACE.....0484-435620 Michael Shore.....West Yorkshire  
 PAGEMAKER USER.....0509-620442 Gill Foster.....Wiltshire  
 PALM BEACH DATA NET.....0303-265979 Alex Coe.....Kent  
 PARADIGMUS MAXIMUS.....081-566-5393 John Taylor.....London  
 PARADISE VALLEY.....0604-880020 Barry Prazak.....Northamptonshire  
 PARAGON SUPPORT.....0705-264180 Andy Smith.....Hampshire  
 PAZAZ VIDEO DATA.....0383-620259 Mick Graham.....File  
 PC ACCESS.....071-608-0081 Ben Knox.....London  
 PC LINK.....0402-349422 Alan Maylin.....Essex  
 PC SERVE SHOP.....081-864-2633 Brian Willis.....London  
 PC SERVE SOFTNET.....0895-420164 John Bolton.....London  
 PC SUPPORT UK.....071-823-3296 Grant Burch.....London  
 PC-VAX OPUS.....081-800-3549 Oliver Murphy.....London  
 PCAMIGA BBS.....0602-735119 Mark Potter.....Nottinghamshire  
 PDSL.....0892-667091 Neil Blaber.....East Sussex  
 PEACENET WEST.....0895-448998 John Horan.....London  
 PECAN SOFTWARE BBS.....0272-248076 Adam Steven.....Avon  
 PEGASUS CONNECTION.....0536-414151 Gary Marden.....Northamptonshire  
 PENGUIN.....0943-830820 Dave Pucknell.....West Yorkshire  
 PETTETT'S PARADISE.....0795-471515 Graham Pettett.....Kent  
 PHANTOM.....0226-340425 Keith Burton.....South Yorkshire  
 PHANTOM BBS.....0224-709833 Iain Sherrit.....Grampian  
 PHOENIX.....0249-817704 Ade Truelove.....Wiltshire  
 PIG PEN.....0706-821837 Oliver Clarke.....Greater Manchester  
 PISTON POPPER'S UK.....0424-853361 Peter Burnett.....West Sussex  
 PLUG-OLE.....021-472-0256 'Pluggie'.....West Midlands  
 PLUS AND MINUS.....0559-322768 Tony Jowers.....Dyfed  
 PMI DATA PLASTICS.....0734-891355 John Shepherd.....Berkshire  
 POACHER OPUS.....0476-62450 Mel Warwick.....Lincolnshire  
 POLYNET SNC.....071-580-1690 Eileen McCabe.....London  
 POPEL.....081-905-5176 Josh Greifer.....London  
 PORT OF CALL.....081-391-5779 John Hunter.....London  
 POST.....0204-364319 Graham Stephens.....Lancashire  
 POWER HOUSE.....0829-782676 Edward Hobson.....Unknown-  
 POWER PACK.....0274-488967 Rik Lister.....West Yorkshire  
 POWER PLAY QBBS.....0698-423669 David Reid.....Strathclyde  
 POWER TOWER.....0533-880114 Jim Bates.....Leicestershire  
 PRESTONET.....0772-612462 John Langfield.....Lancashire  
 PROJECT BBS.....0384-401770 Bert Ilsley.....West Midlands  
 PROMETHEUS.....081-300-7177 Barry Spencer.....London  
 PROXIMA CENTAURI.....0274-532031 Simon Naylor.....Unknown-  
 PS&QSTEL.....051-236-3105 Alan Smith.....Merseyside  
 PUBLIC HOUSE BBS.....0222-665907 Stephen Ogbourne.....South Glamorgan  
 PUBLISHERS' PARADISE.....0536-725180 John Wilson.....Northamptonshire  
 PUBLISHING SHOP.....091-261-5228 Roger Booth.....Tyne & Wear  
 PUPPET MASTER.....071-248-0854 Unknown.....London  
 PURELY PC.....0232-645942 Mike McAree.....Northern Ireland  
 PYRAMID.....071-239-0871 Ian Crocker.....London  
 PYROTO MOUNTAIN.....0895-59071 Barry Kitchen.....London  
 QUASAR.....0846-693067 Dave Byrne.....Unknown-  
 R U CONNECTED 27.....0753-513435 Chris Norris.....Berkshire  
 RANDOM ACCESS.....0282-817379 Keith Whiteley.....Lancashire  
 REALLY INTERESTING.....0582-414991 Andy Vellacott.....Unknown-  
 RED IBIS.....0489-576739 George Cordern.....Hampshire  
 REDSTAR BBS.....0247-456608 Jim Webster.....Unknown-  
 REFLEX BBS.....0703-685527 Kenneth Comben.....Hampshire



# BULLETIN BOARDS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

This list compiled by Gerald Janes of Hawkstile, Ltd., Berkshire, England. From the United States, Dial 011 for overseas operator, country code 44, and then the listed number.

REGENCY BBS	0542-33050	Alan Milne	Unknown
REMOTEPCW	0555-851887	Nigel Hill	Unknown
RIVENDELL BBS	0602-640488	Paul Dingley	Nottinghamshire
RM SUPPORT BBS	0865-796430	David Taylor	Oxfordshire
ROAD RUNNER	061-483-4105	Phil Burden	Greater Manchester
ROCK OF GIBRALTAR	081-678-6087	Paul Bonifacio	Devon
ROOTS (UK)	0483-579631	Mike Fisher	Surrey
S/EM/A/J [UKRAS]	0303-862415	James Berry	Kent
SAGES CAVE	0206-385358	Peter Jezard	Essex
SANCTUARY	0329-236612	Iain Littlejohn	Hampshire
SAS BBS	0742-325232	Paul Smith	South Yorkshire
SATELLITE (SW)	0626-888330	Boyd Hitchcock	Devon
SATURN BB	0282-239600	Thorn White	Lancashire
SCARY MONSTER	0734-320297	Andy Inman	Berkshire
SCORPIONS NEST	0228-26478	Bill Searle	Cumbria
SCOT AIR	0505-26036	George Fleming	Strathclyde
SCOT BOARD	031-334-7041	Jim Woodrow	Lothian
SCOTHELP-ST	031-313-2734	Iain Summers	Lothian
SCOTTISH OPUS	041-880-7845	Donald Whannell	Strathclyde
SCOTTISH WILDCAT	0674-671141	James O'Hara	Tayside
SCS ONE	0444-236002	Chris Stone	Unknown
SDC KEVIN	0908-690910	Kevin Grumball	Buckinghamshire
SEARCHLIGHT UK SUPPORT	0422-257527	George Cannon	Hertfordshire
SECTOR	0772-454328	David Batty	Lancashire
SELEBIA BBS	0757-213215	Peter Gallagher	North Yorkshire
SENTINEL BB	0628-781429	Robert Bowman	Berkshire
SERV-UK BBS	081-841-0974	Dave Horton	London
SEVEN SEAS MAXIMUS	061-442-6758	Vince Fletcher	Greater Manchester
SEVERN SIDE BBS	0452-611342	John Sangwin	Gloucestershire
SHADES	0342-810905	Neil Newell (Hazel)	West Sussex
SHADOWFAX	0252-528146	Mark Lydall	Hampshire
SHADOWLAND	081-897-0488	Ernest Francis	London
SHAREWARE LIBRARY	0424-83654	Vince Apps	East Sussex
SHARPE ELECTRONICS	061-204-2495	Colin Wilcox	Greater Manchester
SHASBY'S LAIR	0772-561066	Mark Shasby	Lancashire
SHERWOOD FOREST	0602-397113	Kevin Lindley	Nottinghamshire
SHORT CIRCUIT	0273-462967	Nigel Bartlett	Unknown
SID (ACORN SERVICE)	0223-243642	Phil Colmer	Cambridge
SIGNAL BOX	081-337-6583	Tony Hawkins	London
SILVER LINK	0952-641724	Phil Gadsby	Shropshire
SIN BIN	0532-661536	Chris Royle	West Yorkshire
SINCLAIR QL BBS	071-706-2379	Tony Firshman	London
SIRIUS	081-542-3772	Bob Tyler	London
SIRIUS II	0494-778425	Martin Brown	Buckinghamshire
SITTINGBOURNE CO-OP	0795-425341	Phillip Clements	Kent
SIX & FIVE 8'S	0273-688888	Ralph Davey	East Sussex
SKULL'S TOWER	081-943-1194	Ben Humphry (Skull)	London
SKY-LINE	0603-742273	Jeremy Chaplin	Norfolk
SKYLINE 1	0234-741691	Andy Shears	Bedfordshire
SMALLEST BBS	0905-613968	Jim Richardson	Worcestershire
SMC OPUS	0324-840868	Rashad Aslam	Central Scotland
SOFTMATIC BBS	0733-322540	Steve Johnson	Cambridge
SOFTWARE MADNESS BBS	0895-272021	Gary Weston	London
SOFTWARE SOURCE BBS	0892-661149	Rod Smith	Leicestershire
SOLITAIRE	0705-553173	Alan Coverdale	Hampshire
SOUNDS DIGITAL	0842-762136	Wally Beben	Norfolk
SOUNDS OF MERCIA	0203-682896	Ian Beales	West Midlands
SPARX	0793-480287	Steve Bernhardt	Wiltshire
SPHERE BBS	0294-221350	Iain Paton	Unknown
SPHINX	061-748-3855	Lorna Price	Greater Manchester
SPLIT INFINITY	0342-712248	Nick Poussin	East Sussex
SPOOK BBS	0268-767365	Brian Crudgington	Essex
SPUTNIK SPITFIRE	0501-31754	Neill Tinlin	Unknown
ST LONDON BBS	081-443-2432	Stephen Page	London
STAINES BB	0784-465794	Dave Low	London
STARBASE ONE (UK)	081-733-3992	Nick Stevens	London
STATE OF SHOCK!	0793-430029	Philip Timm	Wiltshire
STATESIDE LINK BBS	081-984-1522	Brian Willis	London
STEALTH BBS	0532-557739	Donald Harding	West Yorkshire
STEVE & JACKIES	0703-629716	Steve Hughes	Hampshire
STOREHOUSE BBS	0494-728094	Iain Philipps	Buckinghamshire
STRANGE BREW!	081-665-5038	Chris Hale	London
STRANGE***DAZE***	0274-481363	John Poltorak	West Yorkshire
STUN NEST CENTRAL	061-429-9803	Daron Brewood	Cheshire
STYLE QBBS	0422-381164	John Carolin	West Yorkshire
SUMMER WINE	0484-653234	Chris Townsend	West Yorkshire
SUNBURN INC	021-449-5269	Druin Burch	West Midlands
SUPER OPS BBS	0782-284081	Andrew Mitchell	Staffordshire
SUPER SHOT	0252-341751	Graham Lawrence	Hampshire
SWINDON COLLEGE OF FE	0793-488873	Cynthia Ring	Wiltshire
SWINDON NEWC BB	0793-616683	Ray Burcham	Wiltshire
SYSTEM-C-V	0403-50607	Peter Byrne	West Sussex
T.A.B.B.S.	0533-517615	Y.Large/C. Branso	Leicestershire
TABBS	0225-743797	Ewen Wannop	Avon
TABS OPUS	0722-414605	Jon Stephenson	Wiltshire
TAECOMM	0994-6709	Tom Evans	Dyfed
TAFF'S RETREAT	0834-4562	Stephen Vaughan	Dyfed
TARDIS	0772-27236	Brian Davis	Lancashire
TASQUE	0355-222664	Alistair Strand	Unknown
TASQUE	03552-22664	Alistair Strang	Strathclyde
TASUG OPUS	0904-760129	Geoff Protheroe	North Yorkshire
TAVERN	081-445-6514	Paul Baker	London
TBBS-ROVOREED	081-542-9767	Mike Davies	London
TEES FOR TWO	0642-360301	Gordon Smith	Cleveland
TELEFANTASY	0259-69803	Guthrie Wernham	Central Scotland
TEQUILA SUNRISE	0634-683696	Paul Boakes	Kent
TEQUILA SUNSET	0703-867786	'Zearog'	Hampshire
TERMINAL NET 5	0402-456135	Steve Walker	Essex
TERMINAL-NET	081-423-5262	George Young	London
TERMINATOR BBS	0635-248622	Nell Boffin	Berkshire
THARR BBS	0234-261804	Chris Allen	Bedfordshire
THE BOARD WITH NO NAME	0225-777981	Robin Wyles	Wiltshire
THE CULT	021-552-9839	Jason Reeve	West Midlands
THIRD WAVE SYSTEMS	071-585-3163	Geoff Cox	London
THREE KINGS	0354-56267	Phil King	Unknown
TIME TUNNEL	0204-596245	Dave Roodcroft	Lancashire
TORTURE CHAMBER	0707-263695	Steven Gee	Hertfordshire
TRADER BBS	0258-881151	Andy Barnes	Dorset
TRANS-ATLANTIC RES.	0375-25375	Martin Smith	Essex
TRANSYLVANIA EXPRES	0274-621668	Marcus Waterworth	Unknown
TRANZ-COM BBS	081-952-6273	Jonathan Weiss	London
TRINITY 1 TBBS	0392-410210	John Burden	Devon
TRINITY II	0367-22764	Andrew Bessant	Oxfordshire
TWILIGHT ZONE	081-788-0884	Steve Edwards	London
TWILIGHT ZONE II	071-608-1485	Clive Strudwick	London
TWIN PEAKS BBS	0482-872294	Richard Brumpton	Humberside
TYPESETTER'S WKSHOP	0274-491606	Robin Nicholas	West Yorkshire
UK HEALTHLINK	0942-722984	David McKendrick	Lancashire
UNISYS ETOI BBS	081-453-5739	Richard Kemp	London
UNIT ONE	0285-713688	Tim Jones	Gloucestershire
V.I.T.A.S.	021-749-5860	John Williams	West Midlands
VALENTE'S BBS	0305-251489	Derek Bryant	Dorset
VALENTE'S BBS	0305-251830	Derek Bryant	Dorset
VALHALLA	0932-231347	Ivar Petersen	Surrey
VALHALLA II	0642-591103	Frederick Holmes	Cleveland
VECTOR SYSTEM	0329-45824	Arch Clark/S.Rowe	Hampshire
VIKING BBS	0950-60434	Graeme Story	Orkney & Shetland
VIKING EAST ANGLIA	0255-503048	Unknown	Essex
VILLAGE	081-464-2516	Martin Wybold	London
VILLAGE FAYRE	081-841-5971	Brian Mitchell	London
VISION	081-656-7941	Simon Fuller	London
VOYAGER BBS	0483-751324	Alex MacPhee	Surrey
VOYAGER BBS	061-725-9580	Paul Spann	Greater Manchester
WALL STREET BBS	0482-589796	Kev Baillie	Humberside
WELLAND VALLEY BBS	0858-66594	Eddy Ralphson	Leicestershire
WEST NORFOLK BBS 10P-7A	0553-761290	Chris O'Shea	Norfolk
WHITE LIGHTNING	0635-37259	Richard Damell	Berkshire
WHITEHALL PENTHOUSE	071-930-3903	Lucien Oppler	London
WILD IMAGININGS	091-263-4303	Martin Nichol	Tyne & Wear
WINCHESTER REMOTE	0962-69322	Mike Fudge	Hampshire
WINE RACK	0924-411109	Ron Brookes	West Yorkshire
WINO'S BAR	071-824-8863	Andrew Brown	London
WINO'S BAR NO2	071-730-5145	Andrew Brown	London
WOLVERHAMPTON ROS	0902-745337	Bill Gardner	West Midlands
WOMBAT'S BURROW	0752-481824	Dave Burns	Devon
WOMBLE BASE	081-979-9606	Paul Mitchell	London
WONDERLAND	0622-891118	Anthony Hayes	London
WOODGREEN BBS	081-889-5624	Thomas Woodley	London
WORLD OF CRYTON	0749-670030	Hugo Finnes	Somerset
WREXHAM ACCESS CENTRE	0978-290272	John Williams	Ciwyd
XSTREAM BBS	051-227-3666	B. Fraser/D.Bedwin	Merseyside
YORK'S BEST PRICE	0904-679758	Simon Williams	North Yorkshire
YUGO BBS	0734-753648	Kevin Flood	Berkshire
YUKON HO!	0232-768163	Mark Kerr	Northern Ireland
ZEUS BBS	0487-710487	Paul Brown	Unknown



## BOARDWATCH LIST OF BBS LIST KEEPERS

BBS LIST TOPIC	LIST AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Republic of South Africa .....	Henk Wolsink .....	Catalyst BBS .....	(041)34-1122
Darwin National BBS List.....	Meade Frierson .....	USBBS Update Line.....	(202)547-3037
BBS With Handicapped Focus .....	Bill McGarry .....	Handicap News BBS .....	(203)337-1607
Seattle AC 206/West Washington.....	Bob Dinse/Nanook .....	Eskimo North .....	(206)367-3837
Autocad Related BBS .....	Jason Osgood .....	Alacrity BBS .....	(206)643-5477
Kitsap County Washington.....	Michael Schuyler .....	Quicksilver BBS .....	(206)780-2011
Maine BBS .....	Eric Rodzen .....	MaineNET BBS .....	(207)767-1273
Astronomy/Space BBS .....	John Pickens .....	Starbase III BBS .....	(209)432-2487
NY/NJ/CT/PA/DE .....	David Shapiro .....	Network One BBS .....	(212)628-5486
Graphical User Interface BBS.....	David Shapiro .....	The Goopy (GUI) BBS.....	(212)876-5885
Southern California .....	Mike Heffernan .....	SOCAL Corner .....	(213)422-7942
Open Access UNIX Site List .....	Phil Eschallier .....	LGNP1 (login:BBS).....	(215)348-9727
Area Code 609 - New Jersey.....	Ron Brandt .....	Satalink BBS .....	(215)364-3324
Area Code 215 - Philadelphia.....	Ron Brandt .....	Satalink BBS .....	(215)364-3324
Cleveland Area 216.....	Eric Rickin .....	Wine Cellar .....	(216)382-2558
Ham/Amateur Radio BBS .....	Stan Staten .....	3WINKs BBS .....	(301)590-9629
Handicapped Issues BBS .....	Richard Barth .....	HEX BBS .....	(301)593-7357
Baltimore Area 301 .....	Phillip Bailey .....	Baltimore BBS News .....	(301)633-7870
Medical Issues BBS .....	Edward Del Grosso .....	Black Bag .....	(302)731-1998
Denver Colorado AC 303.....	Bob Voorhees .....	Professional System.....	(303)740-2223
Detroit Area 313 .....	Horst Mann .....	Tony's Corner .....	(313)754-1131
ASP BBS Member List.....	Bob Ostrander .....	PBS-BBS .....	(317)856-2087
Engineering Related BBS .....	Arthur Petzelka .....	Computer Plumber .....	(319)337-6723
Rhode Island Area 401 .....	Mike Labbe .....	Eagle's Nest .....	(401)732-5292
Atlanta Area 404 .....	Online Atlanta Society .....	OASIS .....	(404)627-2662
Atlanta Area 404 .....	Rodney Aloia .....	INDEX System.....	(404)924-8472
South Florida Area 305/407 .....	Eric Thav .....	Silicon Beach BBS .....	(407)276-3750
Orlando Florida AC 407 .....	Matt Drury .....	London BBS .....	(407)859-2243
Milwaukee Area 414.....	Jim Belot .....	The Keep BBS.....	(414)372-3488
Arkansas Area 501.....	Bob Underdown .....	The Gaslight BBS .....	(501)444-8420
Portland Oregon BBS .....	Lisa Gronke .....	DawGone Disgusted .....	(503)297-9145
New Orleans BBS List .....	Jeff Jones .....	Southern Star BBS .....	(504)885-5928
Austin Area BBS List AC 512.....	Michael Allen Menoskey .....	=ACE*BBS= .....	(512)258-9989
Selected BBS .....	Joseph Caplinger & Son .....	J&J's BBS .....	(513)236-1229
List of Gay/Lesbian BBS .....	Eric Blair .....	S-TEK BBS .....	(514)597-2409
The List National BBS List .....	James Toro .....	PDSLO (The List) .....	(516)938-6722
Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan .....	Rick Rosinski/SAMM.....	Wolverine BBS .....	(517)695-9952
Wisconsin 608.....	.....	JW-PC Dataflex.HST.....	(608)837-1923
South Jersey Area 609 .....	Dave Schubert .....	The Casino EBBS .....	(609)561-3377
New Jersey Area 201/609/908.....	Wayne R. Morton .....	Praedo BBS .....	(609)953-0769
MIDI Music BBS .....	Lee Smith .....	MIDImaze BBS .....	(615)877-5528
Massachusetts Area 508/617.....	Dave Goodenough .....	Wyzard's Castle.....	(617)825-3135
San Diego, CA AC 619 .....	Ron Dipold .....	Computer's Edge.....	(619)573-1675
Apple II BBS with Internet con.....	Morgan Davis .....	pro-sol .....	(619)670-5379
OS/2 BBS Systems.....	Pete Norloff .....	OS2/Shareware BBS .....	(703)385-4325
Washington DC BBS List.....	Mike Focke .....	Interconnect .....	(703)425-2505
Genealogy Related BBS .....	Richard A. Pence .....	NGS-CIG .....	(703)528-2612
Desktop Publishing BBS .....	Frank Atlee .....	Byrds Nest .....	(703)671-8923
Ontario Area 705 .....	Alex Draper .....	Cottage Country BBS .....	(705)835-6192
Chicago .....	Colby Jordan/Peter Anvin .....	Stillwaters .....	(708)403-2826
Chicago .....	David Nathan .....	HURK BBS .....	(708)801-0823
Houston Area 713 .....	David E. Wachenschwanz .....	Atomic Cafe BBS.....	(713)530-8875
Rochester NY AC 716.....	Jerry Masefield .....	Pigeon Coop BBS .....	(716)262-2612
Central California Area 805.....	Larry Honore .....	His Board .....	(805)652-1478
Kansas City Area 816/913 .....	Roy Timberman .....	Sound Advice .....	(816)436-4516
Dallas/Ft Worth Area 214/817.....	Mark Robbins .....	Second Sanctum .....	(817)784-1178
National Adult BBS List.....	Clayton Manson .....	Titan BBS 1:3612/140 .....	(904)476-1270
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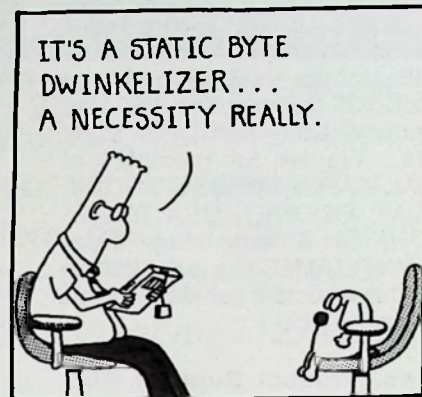
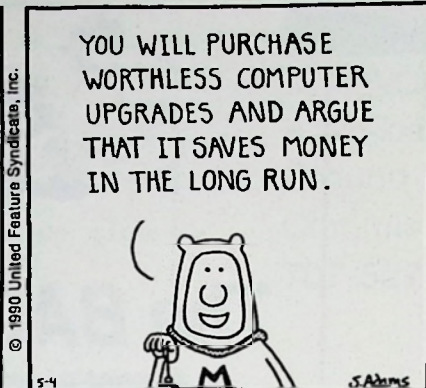
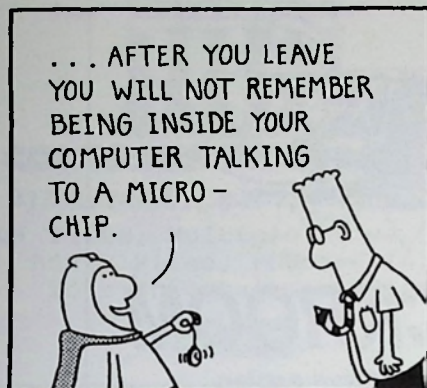
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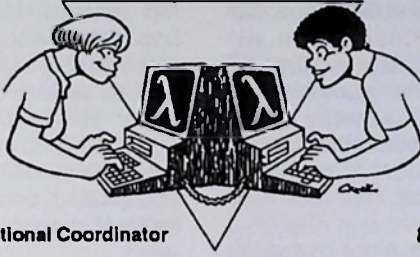
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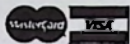




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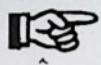




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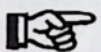
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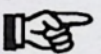
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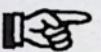
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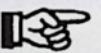
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Book BBS	(215)657-6130	Information on 2000 Computer Books - 800 order number	Boca Research Inc.	Boca Raton FL
Portland Download BBS	(408)439-9096	Utilities, Macros, Programming Examples for Portland Products	Business & Computer Book Store	Willow Grove PA
Bruce's Bar & Grill	(203)236-3761	24-line Social System - Chat - Games - Downloads	Portland International/Mike Fitz-Erz	Scotts Valley CA
Bucks Telematics 273/201	(215)493-5242	Local, National, International Message Conferences	Bruce Lomasky	West Hartford CT
C.R.L. Library Service	(303)863-1350	Citations to 4 Million Texts in Colorado Library System FREE	Richard Press	Yardley PA
CAD/Engineering Service	(615)824-4938	Computer Aided Design File Distribution Network 1:116/32	Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries	Denver CO
Canada Remote Systems	(416)798-4713	23GB/40000+ files, 3500 Conf's, USENET, IBM/Amiga/Mac	Stan Bimson	Hendersonville TN
Capital PC User's Group BBS	(301)738-9060	One of the oldest PC User's Groups - 5500 members	Jud Newell	Mississauga Ontario
Castle Tabby 107/412	(908)988-0706	Home of TABBY Fidonet Interface Program for Apple Macintosh	Capital PC Users Group/Roger Fajman	Rockville MD
Celebration Station	(207)374-5161	Adventure Games, Chat, and Sigs - Children	Michael E. Connick	Bradley Beach NJ
Census Bureau Office Automation	(301)763-4576	Microcomputers and Office Automation	Noel Stookey (Paul of Peter, Paul & Mary)	Blue Hill Falls Maine
Census Bureau Personnel Division	(301)763-4574	Employment Opportunities Within the Census Bureau	US Dept. of Commerce/Nevis Frankel	Suitland MD
Central Point Software	(503)690-6650	PC Tools - Central Point Anti-virus support board	US Dept. of Commerce/Nevis Frankel	Suitland MD
Channel 1	(617)354-8873	70-line PCBoard - 8 GB Files - Internet - 1000's msg. conts.	Central Point Software Inc.	Beaverton OR
Chicago SysLink	(312)622-4442	Special Interest Areas for Farret/Pet Owners, TRS80/Aviation	Brian Miller/Tess Heder	Cambridge MA
chinet	(312)263-0559	UNIX System offering Internet Mail	George Matyaszek	Chicago IL
Classi Computer Fieds	(317)359-5199	Online System for Classified Advertisements	Randy Sues	Chicago IL
Cleveland Freenet	(216)368-3888	Cleveland City Information/Ohio Governor's Office Online	Steve Edsall/Trader Newspaper	Indianapolis IN
CocoNet	(619)456-0815	CocoNet Support/Demo - Hires Graphics BBS for Unix Systems	Case Western University/AT&T/Ohio Bell	Cleveland OH
Comm-Post, The 104/666	(303)534-4646	Astronomy - 725+ MB of Files	Brian and Patricia Dear	La Jolla CA
Community News Service (CNS)	(719)520-5000	News and Entertainment - 17 Lines Community Focus	Brian Barbee	Denver CO
Compact Audio Disk Exchange	(415)824-7603	Buy/Sell/Trade Compact Audio Disks Online	Klaus Dimmler	Colorado Springs CO
CompuCom Customer Support BBS	(415)499-7711	Support for CompuComm SpeedModem - 9600 bps - \$279	Wayne Gregori	San Francisco CA
Computer Garden	(301)546-1508	Treasure Hunting - Metal Detectors - Online Catalog	CompuCom	Sunnyvale CA
Computerized Bulletin Board Sys	(708)849-1132	First Electronic Bulletin Board - Creator of XMODEM Protocol	Milford P. Webster	Salisbury MD
Computing Canada Online	(416)497-5263	Adjunct to Excellent Canadian PC Newspaper	Ward Christensen	Chicago IL
Corporate Data Exchange (CDX)	(609)683-4422	PR Newswire/ Business Wire. Logon: hello user.cdx	Computing Canada Newspaper	Willowdale Ontario
Crosstalk Communications BBS	(404)740-8428	Product Support for Crosstalk for Windows/MK4/XVI	LaFountain Research Corp/Tad LaFountain	Princeton NJ
CTC IEEE Employment Database	(508)263-3857	Online Database of 20,000 Resumes for Engineering	Digital Communications Associates	Roswell GA
Cul-de-Sac Bar & Grill	(508)429-1784	Multiline Service - Ham Radio - Humor - TDBS Applications	Career Technologies Corporation	Andover MA
Dante Project BBS	(603)643-6310	Commentary/Research on Dante's Divinia Comedia	Pete White	Holliston MA
			Dartmouth College	Hanover NH



Dark Side of the Moon	(408)245-7726	Home of WAFFLE, Unix UUUP BBS Software for DOS and UNIX	Thomas E. Dell/Darkside International	Mountain View, CA
Data Core BBS	(213)842-6880	25 line Major BBS	Matthew Schoen/Delta Enterprises	Los Angeles, CA
DataLink RBBS System	(214)394-7438	Weather Satellite Imaging, NOAA Satellite Tracking-AMSAT-NA	Dallas Remote Imaging Group/Jeff Wallach	Carrollton, TX
Dawg Byte	(615)385-4268	ANSI Art Club 1:116/29	Kevin Snively	Nashville, TN
Denver Exchange, The 104/909	(303)623-4965	Denver's Most Diverse Gay/Lesbian Info Service	James Craig	Denver, CO
DragonNet 386/451	(409)765-5459	Multiline MAJOR BBS with 4 GB - 64 lines Interactive Games	Robert Michael/Dragon Profit Systems	Galveston Island, TX
East Bay X-Change 372/888	(803)556-7485	Home of XRS Offline Mail Reader	Mike Ratledge	McClintockville, SC
Echo	(212)989-8411	New York Emulation of THE WELL - Unix CAUCUS Conferencing	Stacy Horn/Echo Communications Group	New York, NY
Economic Bulletin Board	(202)377-3870	Economic Statistics/GNP/GPI/Employment, Trade Opportunities	US Department of Commerce	Springfield, VA
Ed Hopper's BBS	(713)997-7575	Home of uPCB - PCBoard Utility for UUUP Connections	Ed Hopper	Pearland, TX
Electric Ideas Clearinghouse	(206)586-6854	Energy Efficiency Efforts in Pacific Northwest-HydroElec	Bonneville Power Administration WSE	Olympia, WA
Energy Info Admin E-Publications	(202)586-8658	Variety of Petroleum/Coal/Electricity Energy Statistics	US Department of Energy	Washington, D.C.
eSoft Product Support BBS	(303)699-8222	Home of The Bread Board System (TBBS) EBS Software	Phil Becker/eSoft Inc.	Aurora, CO
Event Horizons	(503)697-5100	64 Line Digitized Graphics Image Library - Adult GIF files	Jim Maxey	Lake Oswego, OR
Exchange BBS, The	(713)521-2191	Largest Gay/Bi/Lesbian Multiline BBS in Houston	James Craig/John Fields	Houston, TX
EXEC-PC	(414)789-4210	Largest BBS in US - 230 Lines - 70,000 files - 7 Gigabytes	Bob Mahoney	Elm Grove, WI
Executive Network	(914)667-4567	Interlink Netmail National Host - Multiline PCBoard System	Andy Keeves	Mt. Vernon, NY
Eye Contact BBS	(415)255-5972	22 line Oracom - Gay Issues - Popular Chat System	Bill Montgomery	Mill Valley, CA
Falken Support BBS	(703)803-8000	Support for FALKEN software - 16 lines - doors - chat	Herb Rose	Woodbridge, VA
Farwest BBS	(604)381-3934	Large Western Canada Galacticom Info System	Ren L'Ecuier	Victoria, BC
FAX/Satellite Services BBS	(619)224-3853	NOAA Weather Satellite Images - Russian/Japanese Sat Pics	Scotty Olson	San Diego, CA
FCC Public Access Link	(301)725-1072	Equipment Authorization Status Advisory Service	Federal Communications Commission	Columbia, MD
Federal Job Information Center	(313)226-4423	Federal Job Opportunity Lists available online	US Office of Personnel Management	Detroit, MI
FEDLINK ALIX II	(202)707-4888	Info on Federal Libraries - Excerpts Library of Congress News	Federal Library Information Network	Washington, D.C.
Fido Software BBS 1:125/111	(415)863-2739	The First Fido BBS and home of Fido BBS 12s	Tom Jennings	San Francisco, CA
FOG City Stand	(31-30-735900)	Fidonet Technical Information for Holland	J.J. van der Maas	Utrecht, Holland
FOG City BBS 125/10	(415)863-9697	Gay Community 3BS - AIDS Info - Desktop Publishing - MACs	Bill Essex	San Francisco, CA
Fred the Computer	(508)872-8461	Newspaper BBS, Wierdnet Newswire, List of MA Libraries	Middlesex News-Adam Gaffin	Framingham, MA
FreeBoard BBS, The	(804)744-0797	Desktop Publishing File Distribution Network 1:264/212	Bill Hunter	Midlothian, VA
FSBBS Prototype System	(805)543-8227	Home of FSUUCP and FSBBS - Unix Communications for DOS	Chris Ambler, Fubar Systems	San Luis Obispo, CA
Fun Connection	(503)753-8431	Multiline Entertainment - 8 Lines Games/Chat/News	Vincent Reece	Corvallis, OR
Gateway Communications BBS	(714)863-7097	Novell Network/TCP-IP Shareware Utilities	Gary Gabrick	Irvine, CA
GDP Technologies	(303)673-9470	Outstanding IBM Shareware on a small system	Tom Getty's	Latayette, CO
General, The	(619)281-8616	Popular File Library - CompuCom Modem Support Service	Marc Teitler	San Diego, CA
Gilmore Systems BBS	(818)706-9805	Support for MAGNUM BBS - OS/2 BBS Software - up to 8 lines	Chuck Gilmore	Thousand Oaks, CA
GLIB	(703)578-4542	Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau - 11 Lines - 9600 bps	Community Educational Svcs. Foundation	Arlington, VA
Greenpeace Environet	(415)512-9108	Ecological and Peace Issues - Disarmament/Toxics/Wildlife	Dick Dillman/Greenpeace	Norcross, GA
Hayes Advanced Systems Support	(800)874-2937	Customer Support Line for Hayes Customers - V-series/Ultra	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Peoria, IL
Heartland Free-net	(309)674-1100	Community Online Service - Free Internet E-Mail Boxes	Peoria County Board/Bradley University	Peoria, IL
Hepnet/Satronics TBBS	(215)698-1905	Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish	Mark Miller	New Hartford, CT
HH Info-Net BBS	(203)246-3747	MIS Windows and OS/2 Files our specialty	Russell McOrmond	Cambridge, MA
HOLLIS	(617)495-9500	Harvard On-Line Library Information System - 7E1 VT100	IBM National Support Center	Ottawa, Ontario, CA
Hystics	(613)231-7144	Anriga File Distribution Network 1:163/109	Harvey Newton Publications	Atlanta, GA
IBM National Support Center BBS	(404)835-5300	IBM PC User Groups Database - Newsletter Exchange	Rodney Aloia	New York, NY
Inbound/Outbound/Teleconnect	(212)989-4675	Telephone Sales Trade Magazine Online Service	Daniel Diachun	Lexington, KY
Index Systems	(404)924-8414	Excellent list of Atlanta BBS systems online	A-Comm Electronics Inc.	Hasbrouch Heights, NJ
Infinity World	(606)271-6556	Demo BBS for InfoHost BBS Software - Multiline - Database	John Williams	Johnson City, TN
InfoHost Demo BBS	(201)288-7792	8 line Galacticom System - Many good text publications	Arthur Geffen	Dallas, TX
Intolink for Upper East Tenn.	(615)434-2561	LAN Related Files and Utilities 1:124/6101	Intel Corporation PCEO Division	Hillsborough, OR
Inns of Court, The	(214)458-2620	Support for Intel PC Products - Inboard 386/AboveBoard 286	Mike Sussell	New York, NY
Intel PCEO Support BBS	(503)645-6275	32 Lines - 100 Directories - Good Shareware Catalog 3.2 GB	Don Shepherdson	Bellevue, WA
Invention Factory	(212)431-1194	Online Investment/Stock Market Information/Tech Analysis	US Dept. of Navy / Chris Buechler	Arlington, VA
Investor's Online Data	(206)285-5359	Navy Judge Advocate General's Information Network	JDR Microdevices	San Jose, CA
JAG-NET	(703)325-0748	Online Hardware Order - Catalog - 1.1 GB Files - Quizzes	Jeppeson Data Plan Inc.	Los Gatos, CA
JDR Microdevices BBS	(408)559-0253	7E1 Plots Weather Service - NWS Data and Maps	Alpha Systems Inc./Bill Griffin	Roswell, GA
JEPPI/LINK	(800)767-7000	Online Job Listings - 2186 Technical Pos. - 10,000 Corps.	Keith P. Graham	Nyack, NY
JOBS	(404)992-8937	OPTIK, TEXT2COM, CBOOT, very good shareware utilities	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	Minneapolis, MN
Keith Graham Shareware Support	(914)623-0039	Prime Rate-Fed Funds-T-Bill-Discout Rate-Economic Data	Jim and Karen Burt	Boulder, CO
KIMBERLY BBS	(612)340-2489	400 MB Books, Writers Area - TRS 80 Support	Artisof Inc.	Tucson, AZ
King's Market BBS 104/115	(303)665-6091	Support for LANtastic local area network	Carter Downer	Hannibal, NY
LANtastic BBS	(602)293-8065	Home of GENESIS BBS Software - Multinode LANable,	Tim Pozar	San Francisco, CA
Late Night BBS	(315)592-7300	Home of UFGATE - Software to connect PCs to IUUCP/Usenet	Leading Edge Computer	Westborough, MA
Late Night Software 125/555	(415)695-0759	Support for Leading Edge Computer Owners	Bill Sorcinelli	Spokane, WA
Leading Edge Auto Info Line	(508)836-3967	Legal Issues/Forms - Law BBS List		
LegalEa:9	(509)326-3238			



# BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS AND ON-LINE INFORMATION SERVICES - MAY 1992

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
MAC-LINK	(514)935-4257	Macintosh Oriented Support BBS - 6 Lines - Infomat/BIX	Mark Smith	Montreal, Quebec
Macalot Bulletin Board	(412)846-5312	Support for Second Sight BBS Software for Macintosh	Jeff Dripps/FreeSoft Company	Beaver Falls, PA
MacInternational	(803)798-3755	Largest MAC BBS on East Coast	Ralph Yount	Columbia, SC
Magpie BBS	(212)420-0327	Support/Demo System for Magpie BBS/Conferencing Software	Steve Manes	New York, NY
MaxiHost Support BBS	(209)836-2402	MaxiHost BBS - small, very easy to run BBS	Don Mankin	San Ramon, CA
McAfee Associates BBS	(408)988-4004	Computer Virus Information - VIRUSCAN and CLEANUP Programs	John McAfee/CVIA	San Jose, CA
METRO Online Entertainment	(212)831-9280	32 line DLX with City Guide/Ski Database - Matchmaker - Chat	Bruce Kamm/Metro Online Services	New York City, NY
Micro Foundry, The	(415)598-0398	2.2 GB Downloads - Your Online Software Source - Boardwatch	Thomas Nelson/Clockwork Software	San Jose, CA
Micro Message Service	(919)779-6674	USA Today/BoxOffice Magazine - Large Download Area	Mike Stroud	Raleigh, NC
Micro Tech BBS	(314)334-6359	Support for OSIRIS Multiline BBS Software - IRIS Mail	Micro Tech	Cape Girardeau, MO
MicroLink B	(303)972-9600	Over 2.5 GB of IBM Software - Multiline - USA Today News	Girard Westberg	Littleton, CO
Microim Technical Support BBS	(206)649-9836	Support for Popular R:Base Relational Data Base System	Microim Corporation	Redmond, WA
Microsoft Product Support BBS	(208)637-9009	Word/Works/Multiplan/Flight Simulator Application Notes	Microsoft Corp/Scott J. Honaker	Bellevue, WA
Microsystems Software Inc.	(508)875-8009	HandiWare Software for Handicapped - CodeRunner C Utilities	MSI - Reed Lewis	Framingham, MA
Midwest MIDI 1:147/1007	(405)733-3102	MIDI Distribution Net - MIDI sequences and files	John Fordenbacher	MWC, OK
Minnesota Spacenet	(612)920-5566	Minnesota Space Frontier Society - NASA News	Ben Husset	Minneapolis, MN
MOG-UR'S EMS, The	(818)386-1238	5 Lines - 8 Networks CD-ROMS - 2.8 GB Hub Services HST/V.32	Tom Timpidis	Granada Hills, CA
Movie BBS	(718)939-5462	Movie Reviews and Information - Television	Clarke Ulmer	New York, NY
N.A.C.D. BBS	(912)246-3280	Cave Scuba Diving - Superb Special Topic System	National Assoc. of Cave Divers	Gainesville, FL
N8EMR Ham BBS	(614)895-2553	login:hbs: HAM Radio/AMSAT Unix System - Satellite/Packet	Gary Sanders	Westerville, OH
NAPLPS Graphics BBS	(613)727-5272	NAPLPS Graphics Terminal and Editor Software	MicroStar Corp.	Nepean, Ontario
NARDAC BBS	(804)445-1627	Zenith Computer Support - List of Federal Micro User Groups	Navy Regional Data Automation Center	NAS Norfolk, VA
NASA Headquarters Info Tech	(202)453-9008	Shareware and Technical Info for NASA PC users.	National Aeronautical and Space Admin.	Washington, DC
NASA Spacelink	(205)895-0028	NASA Educational Affairs Div. - Flight Data/Space History	Marshall Space Flight Center	Huntsville, AL
Nashville Exchange	(615)383-0727	12 line TBBS 1.8 GB - Games/TBBS Software Development	Ben Cunningham	Nashville, TN
National Agricultural Library	(301)344-8510	Agricultural Info/Research Resources	US Department of Agriculture	Beltsville, MD
National Genealogical BBS	(703)528-2612	Family History - Genealogical Research - Gravestone Haunting	National Genealogical Society	Arlington, VA
NAVWESA	(202)433-6639	Naval Weapons Engineering Support	Dept. of Navy / Bill Walsh	Washington, D.C.
Netcom Internet Guest System	(408)241-9760	Internet Access System - type "guest" at login for info.	Netcom Online Communications Services	San Jose, CA
Network World Bulletin Board	(508)620-1178	LAN and WAN Issues and Technology	Network World Magazine/CW Communications	Framingham, MA
Neuropsychology Bound 157/3	(216)356-1431	Support Groups for Disabled/Physically Impaired	Butch Walker	Rocky River, OH
NIST ACTS	(303)494-4775	Automated Computer Telephone Service - Sync PC to NBS Time	Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology	Boulder, CO
NIST Computer Security	(301)948-5717	Computer Security and Virus Protection Issues	Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology	Gaithersburg, MD
Nixpix	(303)920-1263	Large Library of Adult GIF Graphics Images	Nick De Wolf	Aspen, CO
NOAA Space Environment Lab	(303)497-5042	Solar Flare/Geomagnetic Data Online	National Oceanographic/Atmospheric Admin	Boulder, CO
NoGate Consulting	(616)530-3392	Home of PAK archive utility	Mike Neuhaus Gus Smedstad	Grand Rapids, MI
Numisnet	(301)498-8205	Collecting of Coins, Medals, and Exonumia	The Mitchell Group	Laurel, MD
OAPSTTN	(919)541-5742	Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Net	Environmental Protection Agency	Research Triangle Park, NC
OASIS BBS	(404)627-2662	Home of Atlanta Bulletin Board List - ABBL	Robert Orr/Online Atlanta Society	Decatur, GA
Occupational Health/Safety BBS	(212)385-2034	Job Safety Issues for Artists, Musicians, Entertainers	Mike McCann/Center for Safety in Arts	New York, NY
Odyssey	(818)358-6968	Adult Multiline Chat System - Games - Magazines - Downloads	Michael Allen	Monrovia, CA
OERIL BBS	(800)222-4922	Educational Statistics and Data - Performance Stats -	US Department of Education	Washington, D.C.
Old Colorado City Communications	(719)632-4111	Political Discussions - Unix UUCP Public Access - Multiline	Dave Hughes	Colorado Springs, CO
Online Now	(807)345-5522	700 Megs plus 5 CD-ROMS plus 6 MB New Software per Week	Gary Walsht/Tom Haavisto	Thunder Bay, Ontario
Online With Hayes	(404)446-6336	Hayes Public Bulletin Board - Conferences/SIGS/Support	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross, GA
Oracle PC	(6108)260-6222	South Australian TBBS Multiline System	Don Crago	Pooraka South Australia
Oracom Support BBS	(619)346-1608	Sales and Support for Oracom Multiline BBS Software	Surf Computer Services	Rancho Mirage, CA
Osprey's Nest	(301)989-9036	Birdwatching, Bird feeding, Naturalist/Ecology Issues	Fran and Norm Saunders	Colesville, MD
P.D.S.L.O. BBS	(616)938-6722	Home of THE LIST National BBS List	James Toro	Hicksville, NY
PacComm BBS	(813)874-3078	Packet Radio Equipment Supplier - TNC/PSK Modems	Gwyn Reedy/PacComm Inc.	Tampa, FL
PC Ohio	(216)381-3320	Shareware library with 100% USR HST access - 24 lines	Norm Henke	Cleveland, OH
PHYSICS Forum BBS	(413)545-1959	Physics and Astronomical Sciences	Univ. of Mass. Dept. of Physics/Astronomy	Amherst, MA
Pinecliff BBS 104/28	(303)642-7463	Large Shareware Library/Echomail Conferences since 1985	Craig Baker	Pinecliffe, CO
Pinnacle Software BBS	(514)345-8654	Support for Sapphire BBS Software	Timothy Campbell/Pinnacle Software	Montreal, Quebec
PKWare BBS	(414)354-8670	Home of PKZIP 1.10 Compression Utility	Phil Katz/PKWare Incorporated	Glendale, WI
Pleasure Dome	(804)490-5878	Sexually Explicit Fantasy Chat System - Adults only	Tom Terrific	Tidewater, VA
Practical Peripherals BBS	(818)706-2467	Support BBS for Practical Peripherals Modems	Thomas Smith/DataStorm Technologies Inc.	West Lake Village, CA
ProComm Support BBS	(314)875-0503	Home of ProComm 2.4.3 and ProComm Plus Comm Prgms		Columbia, MO



Promised Land, The	715/387-1399	16-Line/2.5GB/11,000+ Files/ WINDOWS, Chat & More	Tim Brown/Computer Solutions	Marshfield, WI
Public Brand Software BBS	317/856-2087	Commercial Shareware Vendor	Public Brand Software	Indianapolis, IN
Public Data Network	503/474-6662	64-line System with \$2.50/hour Local Access	Tony Javoric/Public Data Network	Grants Pass, OR
QMail Deluxe Support BBS	901/382-5583	Support for QMail - offline conference mail reader	Mark (Sparky) Herring	German town, TN
Qualitas, Inc. BBS	301/907-8030	386MAX and BlueMAX Memory Management Software Support	Qualitas Inc.	Bethesda, MD
QuickBBS Support BBS 363/34	407/896-0480	Product Support for QuickBBS Software	Richard Creighton/Steve Gabrilowitz	Orlando, FL
Rose Media	416/733-2780	19 GB - Home of Rosemail - Publications/Conferences	Vic Kass	Willowdale, Ontario
Rusty & Edies	216/726-0737	Large ML PCBBoard run by Husband and Wife - NFL/Tradewars	Rusty and Edwina Hardenburgh	Boardman, OH
Salt Air BBS	801/261-8976	Home of PCBBoard BBS Software - National List of PCB Sys	Clark Development Company/David Terry	Murray, UT
San Diego NeXT User's Group BBS	619/456-2522	Support for NeXT Computers	Brian Dear/San Diego NeXT User's Group	San Diego, CA
Science Resource Studies BBS	202/634-1764	Federal R&D Budget - Technical Labor Market Statistics	National Science Foundation	Washington, D.C.
SDN Project, The 1:141/840	203/634-0370	The Original Software Distribution Network	Ray Kaliss	Meriden, CT
SEABOARD	201/473-1991	Support system for ARC, SEADOG, and AXE software.	System Enhancement Associates	Wayne, NJ
Seagate Technical Support BBS	408/438-8771	Installation and Specifications for Hard Drive Models	Seagate/Bill Rudok	Scotts Valley, CA
Searchlight BBS	516/689-2566	Home of QEdit - A Superb Shareware Text Editor	Searchlight Software	Stony Brook, NY
SemWare Support BBS	404/641-8968	Varied Subjects, FidoNet, Binkley term Entertainment	Sammy Mitchell/SemWare Software Products	Marietta, GA
Short Line 104/36	303/733-0773	CD-ROM/Optical Publishing Info - Lists of Gov. CD Data	Allan Applegate	Denver, CO
SIGCAT BBS	703/648-4168	Largest BBS in Mexico - Spanish Language TBBS	Tecnologia Uno Cero S.A. de C.V.	Mexico City
Sistema Profesional Informacion	525 590-5888	Geneology Programs File Distribution Net 1:271/23	Debbi McKay	Virginia Beach, VA
Skeleton Closet, The	804/671-8547	STC Job Service, Freelance Registry - Technical Writers	Society for Technical Communication	Washington, D.C.
Society for Technical Comm. BBS	703/622-3299	Family Oriented Christian BBS	Anton Johnson	Fremont, CA
Sonshine Express BBS	415/651-2440	Twenty Line PCBBoard with 2 Gigabytes Storage - HST Modems	Roy Timberman	Gladstone, MO
Sound Advice BBS	816/436-4516	Clipper/XBase/General Programming File Distribution 107/230	Erik VanRiper	Bay Shore, NY
Source for Source, The	516/968-7824	Windows Distribution Network - Windows utilities/files	Larry Mundy	Bedford, TX
Spare Parts 1:130/38	817/540-3527	9-nodes, 2.1GB, link, 75,000 programs	Michael Keylin	Brooklyn, NY
Star-Link Network BBS	718/972-6099	Hazardous Materials/National Dam Watch/Emergency Info	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Washington, D.C.
State and Local Emergency Mgmt.	202/646-2887	Home of Stillwaters Chicagoland BBS List - over 500 systems	Colby Jordan (BBS) Peter Arvin (list)	Orland Park, IL
Stillwaters BBS	708/403-2826	Online Democracy/Political Culture for the Future	Tim Stryker	Davie, FL
Superdemocracy Foundation BBS	305/370-9376	Botany, Herbaria, FLORA ONLINE Newsletter, Latin Translation	Clinton Herbarium, Buffalo Museum	Buffalo, NY
TAXACOM	716/896-7581	Demo/Support for TEAMate BBS Software for Unix	Bob Baskerville/MMB Development Corp.	Manhattan Beach, CA
TEAMate Unix Bulletin Board	213/361-3746	Home of Zmodem File Transfer Protocol/Modem/YAM	Chuck Forsberg/Omen Technology Incorp.	Portland, OR
Telepath	503/621-3746	DBMS/Dr. Dobbs Journal Magazine Online Service	M&T Publishing	Redwood City, CA
Telx Support BBS	415/364-8315	Support Service for Telix Communications Software	Colin Sampaeanu/Exis Incorporated	West Hill, Ontario
That Old Frog's Swamp	416/439-8293	Zen Bhuddist Monk/PC Consultant	Ryugen Fisher/The Old Frog	Rhineland, WI
The Back Room	715/362-3895	America's Largest Exclusively Gay DB - Home of Gaycomm	Arlie Kohn	Richmond Hill, NY
The Business BBS	718/849-1614	Microsoft Windows Support	Jim Appleby	Los Angeles, CA
The Ledge PCBBoard	213/477-0408	Home of Textview Door for PCBBoard Systems	Joseph Sheppard	Tulunga, CA
The Crowd Crowd	818/896-4015	Specializing in outdoor activities and sports	George Peace	Hoffman Estates, IL
The Other BBS 1:1/0	708/885-8865	FidoNet Zone Coordinator for North America 1:1/0	Bob Voorhees	Harrisburg, PA
The Professional System	717/657-2223	Writers, Lawyers, EDP Auditors	Whole Earth Letriconic Link	Littleton, CO
The Well	303/740-2223	Unix Conferencing System - \$10 monthly plus \$2.50 Hourly	Clayton Manson	Sausalito, CA
Titan BBS	415/332-7190	Adult BBS - Online Games - GIF Images	National Review Magazine	Pensacola, FL
Town Hall	904/476-1270	Conservative Political Conference and Debate	Gerhard Obenaus	New York, NY
Transnet	800/648-6964	Language Translation Services - Dictionaries - Freelance	John Burden	Urbana, IL
Trinity 1 BBS	217/384-5101	United Kingdom Distributor of Boardwatch Magazine	Chipsoft Inc.	Exeter Devon, U.K.
TurboTax Support BBS	44 392 410210	Income tax information - TurboTax 1040 program support	U.S. Robotics Corporation	San Diego, CA
U.S. Robotics - Sit UBU Sit	619/453-5232	Support for US Robotics HST 9600 bps Modems	U.S. Robotics	Skokie, IL
US Naval Observatory BBS	708/982-5092	Time - Date - Sunrise - Sunset - Enter @TCO for Commands	US Department of Commerce US Naval Observ	Washington, D.C.
USGS Quick Epicenter Determin.	202/653-1079	Earthquake Epicenter Data - Geomagnetism/7E2	US Geological Survey Earthquake Info Cnt	Denver, CO
USNO Time of Day for Clocks	800/358-2663	Xmits ASCII Time String - Sync Your PC to USNO Atomic Clock	US Naval Observatory	Washington, D.C.
UT Library Online Catalog	202/653-0351	Online Library Card Catalog Listing 3.5 million entries	University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
Ventura Professional Forum	512/471-9420	Ventura Publisher User's Group BBS	Gene Rodrigues - Ventura Professional	San Jose, CA
Ward and Randy's CBBS	408/227-4818	World's First and Oldest Micro-based BBS - Since 2/16/78	Ward Christensen/Randy Suess	Chicago, IL
WeatherBank	312/545-8086	Online Weather Forecasts for Any City - Download Radar Data	Steve Root/WeatherBrief Data Services	Salt Lake City, UT
Wildcat HQ BBS 210/12	800/827-2727	Hard Drive/Controller Installation and Config Data	Western Digital Corporation	Bakersfield, CA
Windows Online Information	714/753-1068	Multiline Support System for Wildcat BBS Software	MSI - Mustang Software, Inc.	Danville, CA
Windsor Manor	510/736-8343	Windows 3.0 Programs and Utilities - 9 lines	Frank Mahaney	Windsor, CT
Word Perfect Customer Support	203/688-4973	Over 27 Online Adventure Games	Jim Taylor	Orem, UT
WWIV Support BBS	801/225-4444	Word Perfect 4.2/5.0/5.1 Support/Printer Drivers	Wayne Bell	Rolling Hills Estates, CA
XTree BBS	213/208-6689	Support for WWIV BBS Software	XTree Company	San Luis Obispo, CA
XyQuest Support BBS	805/546-9150	Support for XTree Pro Gold DOS Shell Program	XyQuest Inc. - Christine Madsen	Bellerica, MA
Yellow Dream Machine BBS	508/667-5669	Support for XyWrite Word Processor - Custom Keyboard Files	Bill Scarborough/Cyanosis Rex	Austin, TX
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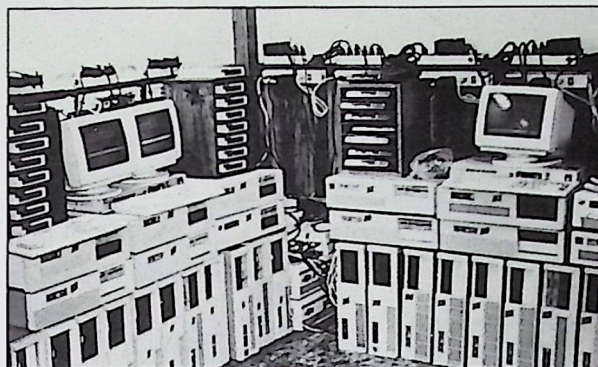
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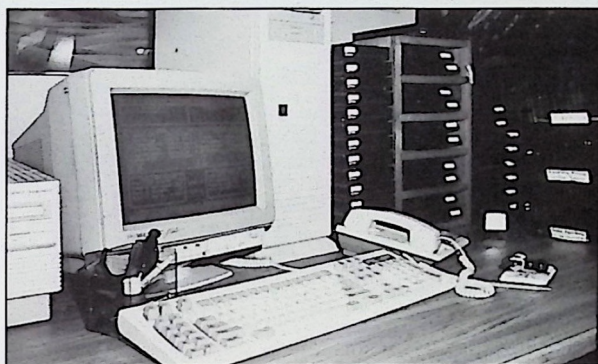
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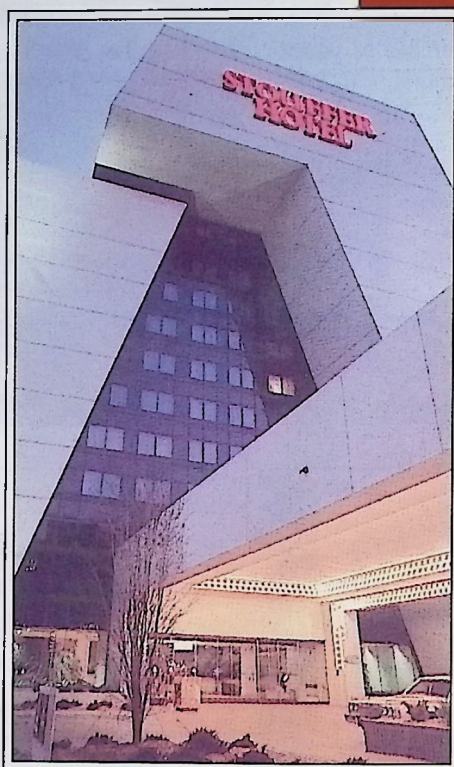
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